

Speaking to Teenagers: Where Everyone Has a Role in Communicating

by Doug Fields

Training Notes

Regardless of whether you ever stand in front of teenagers to “teach”, you are influential in the communication process

Being a good communicator to teenagers isn’t the same as being a good youth worker

God doesn’t need flawless communicators... just faithful, hardworking ones

“If you think the gathering of biblical facts and standing up with a Bible in your hand will automatically equip you to communicate well, you are deeply mistaken. It will not. You must work at being interesting. Boredom is a gross violation, being dull is a grave offense, and irrelevance is a disgrace to the Gospel. Too often these three crimes go unpunished and we preachers are criminals.” Chuck Swindoll

An environment of grace, encouragement, and cheerleading should surround those who communicate

You’re always communicating, even when you’re not speaking

- Ethos: “Can I trust you?”
- Pathos: “Do you care about me?”
- Logos: “Do you know what you’re talking about?”

? Reflection questions:

To get the most out of your online video experience we encourage you to take some time to answer the following questions:

- Reread the Chuck Swindoll quote on page 1 of this outline. What is your response to this quote?
- What's one action you can take right away to encourage someone who teaches on a regular basis?
- Is there a defined expectation for you (as a leader) to respond to noise and disruption during teaching time? If yes, what is the expectation? If not, what questions do need answered by the leader of your ministry?
- In what ways are you currently communicating trust to teenagers? (**ethos**: You can trust me.)
- In what ways are you currently communicating concern or empathy to teenagers? (**pathos**: I care about you.)
- In what ways are you currently communicating wisdom to teenagers? (**logos**: I know what I'm talking about.)
- What are some specific ways in which your entire team can play a significant role in more effective communication?



If you'd like to receive a DYMU certificate at the end of this course, be sure to answer the questions online.

💬 Talk it over:

- Consider sharing what you've learned with others.
- Process this information with another leader on your team.
- Write out specific questions you want to ask someone on your leadership team.
- Leave a comment in the space below the video window and engage with other DYMU participants.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Doug Fields

Doug Fields is most well known for his longevity in youth ministry (30+ years as a youth pastor) and the award-winning book Purpose Driven Youth Ministry—which is a youth ministry textbook translated in over 20 languages and used all over the world. He's also the author of 60+ books, including Your First 2 Years in Youth Ministry and Speaking To Teenagers. He's the co-founder of DownloadYouthMinistry.com where he currently spends his time creating resources like this for people like you.