



# Guidelines for an Outside Speaker

If you are an outside speaker at an evangelistic Christmas party, get to know your host couple and their hearts for their neighbors. Ask questions about what your audience will be like. Write down specific prayer requests and the names of the expected guests. Make personal prayer a priority, as well as recruiting prayer support for this event.

Prayerfully prepare a 10-15 minute message that will relate to this particular audience. God has chosen you as His spokesperson. He will draw them to Christ through you. Be confident in Him as you prepare. As you rehearse and memorize your message, use these guidelines and review your notes.

## ***Establish Rapport***

There's nothing like a captivating introduction! Commend the group for getting together as a neighborhood.

## ***Use Humor to Put the Audience at Ease***

Briefly relate your own light-hearted Christmas memory.

## ***Transition to Christ and Your Testimony***

Keep track of the clock: five minutes on your life before coming to Christ; three minutes on specifically how you came to receive Christ as Savior; and five minutes on the changes He has made in your life and the assurance you now have of eternal life with Christ. Tie in the personal significance Christmas now has.

Weave in the Gospel basics: that there came a point when you understood you had offended God by your attitude and actions; that you realized Christ died for your sins; that He rose from the dead and offered you hope and forgiveness. See "Outline for an Evangelistic Talk" on pages 41-43 for more ideas. Don't pass out tracts or read to the group. Be more personal.

## ***Close by Inviting a Response***

Say this to conclude:

*I'd like to ask you to do one thing for me: Could you put your name, address and phone number on this 3x5 card, along with any comments you may have about the evening or my talk? Was it helpful? Did you identify with me in any way? If tonight you prayed to invite Christ into your life, would you place an X by your name?*

Repeat these instructions: "name, address, phone number, comments and X by name," then wait for guests to complete their cards. Don't worry if the silence seems awkward; it's not awkward to the guests. They are thinking and writing. This time is critical for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts.

Thank the host and hostess for inviting you and turn the party back to them to announce the Bible study and make additional comments. After guests leave, read the comment cards together with the host and hostess. Praise and thank God for His mighty work!



