

Tips For Training Opportunities

You can learn a lot from the back row. Over the last fifteen years I've had a great back row seat to learn from many gifted presenters, trainers and facilitators for the Arrow Leadership Program. Whether you are a veteran communicator or gearing up to share your first Sunday school lesson, I trust these lessons will have a takeaway or two.

Lessons For Teaching, Training and Communicating

Come To Serve – I've watched world-class presenters who have traveled for hours to join an Arrow week jump immediately into service mode – helping to load suitcases into the water taxi or bus, setting up the training room, connecting with participants after session, etc. Instead of expecting us to serve them, they took the initiative to model servant leadership. This speaks volumes to participants and hosts. Remember, even though you are 'the speaker', this isn't about you. Your aim is to serve your hosts and the participants.

Share Yourself – Learning often happens best in the context of relationship. While you may have outstanding content and remarkable credentials, be sure to first share you. Make a relational connection early – briefly sharing some of your life journey, introduce your family, humbly share a recent mountaintop and valley experience, etc.

Invite Early Engagement – If you are hoping for engagement and interaction, then invite it early. Instead of you praying for the group from the front of the room, ask the participants to find a partner and briefly pray together. Another idea – go around the room and have each participant share one question they have about the topic – if this would take too long, have them do this with a partner or write their question on an index card they post to a bulletin board.

Get Started – Sometimes introductions and preliminaries can eat too far into your first session. Be sure to get started into the objectives for the session fairly quickly.

Harness the Wisdom of the Room – The combined wisdom, experience and brainpower in the room is usually always going to be more than what you bring. Invite participants to contribute their experiences, ideas, wisdom, etc.

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About Steve: Steve is husband to Lea and dad to three teens - Luke, Ainslea and Lauren. Based near Vancouver, BC, Steve develops Jesus-centered leaders as President of Arrow Leadership, an organization focused on developing Jesus-centered leaders. He's the author of "Leading Me - Eight Key Practices for a Christian Leader's Most Important Assignment", "Great Questions for Leading Well" and www.sharpeningleaders.com.

He loves communicating, coaching, and creating resources for leaders. Steve also teaches at Tyndale Seminary's Doctor of Ministry Program.



www.arrowleadership.org

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Less is Usually More – To give the group their money's worth and to maximize your time, there's often a temptation to 'back up the truck' and unload all your content. Doing so, however, leaves most participants feeling like they had too much to eat. Instead, go with a 'less is more' approach where quality trumps quantity and the participant is left desiring more.

Never Rush – If your content is greater than your time, don't let your anxiety overflow to the participants and don't try to cram everything in. Instead, you can make a choice to cover A and not B – then inform the participants. Or, you can invite the participants to choose whether they would like to focus on A or B in the time remaining. This takes the pressure off everyone.

The Twenty Minute Rule – You may have a ton of great material, but most people need a short mental and/or physical break every twenty minutes. This could include exercises like: discuss with a partner, work in a small group, stand for a minute and share one takeaway or question so far, etc.

One takeaway – Towards the end of your presentation, ask the question "what is one takeaway you are leaving with?". Give people 30 seconds in silence to look at their notes and be quiet with God. Afterwards, invite the group to stand and share with a partner. This will help them to concretely take something away and sharing it out loud drives it deeper inside them.

Provide Quality Notes – The quality of your handouts can take your presentation to another level. While it's quickest to simply print your slide presentation with three slides to a page, this route gives away your presentation, can be hard to read and doesn't add value. Your notes can provide value-added quotes and extra resources that you can reference but not have to teach. We leave a right-hand column for relevant quotes and to provide participants the space for making notes.

To Powerpoint or Not? – I've seen professionally designed Prezi presentations used by some presenters and no technology used by others. Interestingly, both have been effective. Be careful not to rely on slides – they can be restrictive and become tiresome. Ask yourself: Does this really need a slide? Could one slide be the concept image for several points I want to make?

Did you find this helpful? To find more tips and tools for Jesus-centered leadership subscribe to the [Sharpening Leaders](http://www.sharpeningleaders.com) blog at www.sharpeningleaders.com

For nearly 30 years, Arrow Leadership has been developing Jesus-centered leaders for greater Kingdom impact. We help leaders and organizations lead differently through transformational programs, personal mentoring, organizational consulting and exceptional resources. Discover how you can grow in Jesus-centered leadership to be led more by Jesus, to lead more like Jesus and to lead more to Jesus.

