

# Learn How to Speak at HSM Large Group

## INTRO

So you want to, or have been invited to, speak to High School students during HSM Small Group? That's so awesome and it will be easier than you think! With a little preparation, writing and practice you'll be able to speak to students. We have created a process to help you out. Take a deep breath and relax. God will be with you every step of the way. God is for you, has called you to shine His light to others, and will move in you to do so as you learn how to speak to high school students!

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Simply - here's a process to grow in this skill set of teaching to a group of students.

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**5 Step to Becoming a Large Group Speaker:**

**A - Preparing** - Read over the material provided by HSM and ask God to guide you in preparing your message.

**Curriculum Material** (and so much more) can be found on Hope's Resource Page:  
<https://resources.gethope.net/hsm/>

As you read and pray over the provided material, begin to reflect and make notes:

- Circle your favorite things!
- Put question marks where you need to learn or study more.
- Write down any ideas of how to bring something to life while you read.
- *PRO TIP: Grab a fun color highlighter and/or pen - just to make yourself smile*

## B - Writing -

At HSM we believe in high school students becoming disciples who lead disciples. As a part of this, we encourage our students and leaders to grow in their faith by leading large group messages. For every Large Group teaching, **HSM will provide a main point, main scripture, and gospel moment that we ask every leader to share and emphasis.** We will also provide a message example that leaders can use as inspiration in creating their message. We encourage our Large Group leaders to use the below template in writing their messages and really think through how to personalize the message for their small group.

We realize that some small groups might not have a student ready to try to lead the large group teaching. If that is your group, we ask Adult Mentors to lead large group time while encouraging your students to grow in their faith. The ultimate goal is for Adult Mentors to mentor their students in growing in their faith and leadership, so always keep your eyes and hearts open to what students you can encourage to lead large group - maybe even you can begin by asking them to prepare one part of the teaching.

### TEMPLATE with explanation

#### THE WHAT (2-3 minutes)

- ME - Introduce yourself and your topic – find common ground with your audience.
- WE - Build an emotional common ground with your audience – build as many bridges emotionally as possible.
- Transition - Connect the idea from “The What” into the “So What.” The goal is to have a message that flows easily into the next section.

#### SO WHAT? (5-6 minutes)

- GOD - God has a solution for us today – engage your audience with the text – Don’t just read it. Don’t explain it to death. Make it fascinating!
- GOSPEL MOMENT - Jesus dying on the cross to forgive our sins and offer us new life is the foundation of everything in our faith. We don’t want to share about good morals, but also The Good News. Take a moment every message to point to Jesus and the gospel.
- Transition - Connect the idea from the “So What” into the “Now What.” The goal is to have a message that flows easily into the next section.

#### NOW WHAT? (2-3 minutes)

- YOU - Find one point of application everyone can embrace. Don’t ask them to make a life altering decision. Give them a measurable or reachable goal. Encourage them to try something for a week, a day or even a month.
- WE - Cast a vision – briefly describing what would happen if this group of people would follow what has been taught. Tell them to imagine what WE could do together. Re-emphasis your main point.
- Pray - Close your time together in prayer. We can’t live for Jesus on our own strength; ask God to help everyone grow in their ability to know Him and live for Him.

**BLANK TEMPLATE**THE WHAT (2-3 minutes)

- ME -
- WE -
- Transition -

SO WHAT? (5-6 minutes)

- GOD -
- GOSPEL MOMENT
- Transition -

NOW WHAT? (2-3 minutes)

- YOU -
- WE -
- Pray -

**WRITING STEPS**

**Write your Outline.** - Customize the message example to fit you and your group.

This is where the template comes in clutch!

**Write your Message.** - Fill in your outline. Think how you can bring it to life for your group with activities, personal stories, and/or illustrations.

**B - Writing EXAMPLES:::****OUTLINE EXAMPLE****Let It Go Week 1: The Grudge**

**Main Point:** The more you hold a grudge, the more the grudge has a hold on you.

**Main Scripture:** Romans 12:17-21

**Gospel Moment:** God didn't hold a grudge against us because of our sin, through Jesus' sacrifice He made a way for us to be fully forgiven.

**THE WHAT** (2-3 minutes)

## ME

- Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you were about to blow up—to totally lose it? In the moment, we all face the same question: “How will I respond?”
- For the next couple of weeks, we're going to talk about forgiveness—why forgiveness is always a better option even when it feels like the opposite is true.

## WE

- We may call it something different, but we've all been pulled into the revenge and grudge-holding trap. The truth is, revenge and holding a grudge seems satisfying.
- What if our not letting it go is hurting us more than the person who hurt us in the first place? What if the truth is, the more you hold a grudge, the more the grudge has a hold on you?
- The issue of forgiveness is something everyone wrestles with at some point.

**SO WHAT?** (5 minutes)

## GOD

- Paul says this—addressing this very common problem: *Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone (Romans 12:17 NIV).*
- But who is going to make things right, if you don't? To which Paul says, *Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord (Romans 12:19 NIV).*
- Whose job is it to get revenge? (God's.) Whose job are we trying to take when we hold onto grudges and try to get revenge? (God's.)
- And then *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (Romans 12: 21 NIV).* You don't overcome evil with evil. You overcome evil with good.

## GOSPEL MOMENT

- God didn't hold a grudge against us because of our sin, through Jesus' sacrifice He made a way for us to be fully forgiven.

**NOW WHAT?** (2-3 minutes)

## YOU

- So, what does that mean exactly? It starts with forgiveness. As long as you care about getting back and holding a grudge, you will never fully be able to deal with your hurt.
- Forgiveness breaks the power of a grudge. Forgiveness brings healing. Most importantly, forgiveness sets you free.
- Go home. Go to your room. Grab a sheet of paper and write on it what you're holding onto. So who do you need to forgive?

## WE

- What if the cycle of evil for evil just stopped for good with forgiveness?
- Forgiveness sets you free. It's time for a lot of us to start letting go.

## Written Message EXAMPLE

### Let It Go Week 1: The Grudge

**Main Point:** The more you hold a grudge, the more the grudge has a hold on you.

**Main Scripture:** Romans 12:17-21

**Gospel Moment:** God didn't hold a grudge against us because of our sin, through Jesus' sacrifice He made a way for us to be fully forgiven.

### THE WHAT

**ME:** Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you were about to blow up—to totally lose it? Guys, maybe you're walking down the hall when another guy bumps into you, knocking everything out of your hands. He doesn't apologize—or acknowledge you. A friend notices you're about to flip your lid. Your blood pressure's rising and your fists are clenched. In an attempt to calm you down, he intervenes, "*Come on, man. Let it go.*"

Ladies, maybe you're home on your computer, bouncing back and forth between Facebook and homework, when you notice a friend keeps posting flirtatious comments on your boyfriend's Facebook page. It seems like every time he comments or posts a picture, she's the first to "like" or respond. You're about to freak out and dive headfirst into a malicious Facebook rant. But your dad—noticing what's about to happen—advises you, "*Take it easy. Just let it go.*"

Maybe it's not anger but sadness. Ladies, maybe you were dating a guy and he broke up with you. When he did it (over text message) that was bad enough. But then he *immediately* started dating someone else. The more you think about it, the more rejected and insecure you feel. You sulk. You mope. And your friends and family keep encouraging you to just *let it go*.

Chances are, you could tell your own version of these stories with a slightly different—but similar—plotline. They may seem trite. But in the moment, we all face the same question: "**How will I respond?**" Am I going to let it go? In other words, am I going to choose to forgive?

For the next couple of weeks, we're going to talk about forgiveness—why forgiveness is always a better option even when it feels like the opposite is true. And while I think most of us would say—in theory—forgiveness is a good idea, we don't always live that way—especially when the alternative—revenge—looks so appealing.

**WE:** We may call it something different, but we've all been pulled into the revenge and grudge-holding trap. The weekend you and your step-mom can't seem to stop fighting and you are so mad at her that you make poor decisions just to spite her—that is holding a grudge. Monday rolls around and you get to school and you're in a bad mood, fail your English quiz and have a bad practice. Ultimately, *you* are more hurt than she is by what you did.

Or maybe when you find out your friend gossiped about you, you hold a grudge and plot revenge. You start having imaginary conversations where you totally tell her off. You get mad just thinking about it—so mad you feel like you are living the moment all over again. You want to take revenge because you think it will feel good, but it ends up just making you more angry.

The truth is, revenge and holding a grudge seems satisfying. We think it's important to keep in the forefront of our minds how someone has hurt us. We may not be doing it intentionally, but when we see our ex-girlfriend, ex-best friend, step-mom, old coach—whoever—we relive the pain they caused.

For a lot of us, it meets a sense of justice in us. We think if we forgive we are letting the person who hurt us get away with something—and that just doesn't seem fair. So, we remember, get payback, and make sure

everyone knows how wrong this person was when they hurt us. We think it is *right* to be this way. But what if it's not? What if our refusal to forgive is actually doing more harm than good? What if our not letting it go is hurting us more than the person who hurt us in the first place? What's really happening if we can't move past the pain? What if the truth is, **the more you hold a grudge, the more the grudge has a hold on you?**

**TRANSITION:** The issue of forgiveness is something everyone wrestles with at some point. Everyone has been hurt and will feel the tug to get even, or hold onto hurt and a grudge rather than forgive.

### **SO WHAT?**

**GOD:** And in a letter to the Roman church, the apostle Paul says this—addressing this very common problem: *Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone (Romans 12:17 NIV.)*

First, it's nice to see someone acknowledging that whatever they did to you, it was evil. Paul isn't saying, "It wasn't that bad. Get over it." Paul calls it like it is—evil. That pack of mean girls not letting you sit at their table—that was evil. Your buddy stealing your girlfriend—that was evil. Your dad leaving the family—that was evil.

But more importantly, God realizes that our first inclination in any situation is to repay evil for evil. It's totally normal. Natural. Instinctual. Someone punches you, you punch back harder. Someone insults you, you insult their mom. Someone honks at you in the school parking lot, you key their car after school. Paul gets it. But then he says, don't do it.

Why? Because revenge doesn't work. It's never just **evil for evil**. After you repay evil for evil, what does that other person repay you with? Puppies and back massages? No, more evil. And so it becomes evil for evil for evil and so on. It creates a cycle. Of revenge. Of grudge-holding. Of just a lot of nasty stuff that never really addresses the issue in the first place: That you were hurt and that you are still hurt. And it isn't going away.

So when Paul tells us not to repay evil for evil, it is because he knows it creates a cycle that can be impossible to put an end to. Which may be true, but it doesn't always feel good—or fair—to choose this higher road. Who is going to make things right, if you don't?

To which Paul says, *Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord (Romans 12:19 NIV)*. Let's review. Whose job is it to get revenge? (God's.) Whose job are we trying to take when we hold onto grudges and try to get revenge? (God's.) Let's be honest—we are talking about the God who plagued Egypt with boils, locusts and more. God can handle revenge. But it's more than that. God isn't interested in simply taking revenge on our behalf. God cares more about leaving room for Him. Because He knows it's more than just a good idea to forgive. It's in our best interest to forgive. A grudge—over time—isn't something we hold on to, but something that begins to hold on to us.

And then we get to the verse where we find the principle. You may need to write this down, memorize it, or tattoo it on your lower back or something. (Just kidding.) *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (Romans 12: 21 NIV)*. Scripture says *Do not be overcome with evil*, but our way of holding grudges and getting even ensures that we will be overcome. By evil. By unforgiveness. By pain. By hurt. Because the more you hold on to revenge and all that comes with it, the more it holds on to you and starts grabbing hold of your family, or your friends, or your team. Don't get to that place. Don't become that bitter, angry, absorbed person. Don't be overcome. Let it go. Overcome evil with good. You don't overcome evil with evil. You overcome evil with good.



**GOSPEL MOMENT:** The truth is we all have actually done something bad against God and not followed His ways: maybe it was lying, cheating on a test, talking back to our parents, but the truth is we've all sinned. Sin is an offense to God and so God would be justified to hold grudges against each and every one of us, but He doesn't. Instead Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty of our sins and when we believe in Him, God amazingly forgives us and gives us new life. That is how we are truly able to forgive others, not just because it's the right thing to do, but because Jesus first forgave us.

**TRANSITION:** So, what does that mean exactly? Pay someone your ticked at a false compliment? Give them \$5? There isn't exactly a formula, so it can be tricky. It requires you to get creative. I'm not sure how it will play out for you, but I do know where it has to start: it starts with **Forgiveness**.

### **NOW WHAT?**

**YOU: Forgiveness.** That's it right there. You've got to forgive. You have to break the cycle. You have to let go of the urge to hold on to the offense that hurt you as badly as it did. You have to make the decision to allow God to be the One to handle the person who hurt you *and* the hurt you're dealing with. As long as you care about getting back and holding a grudge, you will never fully be able to deal with your hurt.

Make the decision to forgive. That's how you stop the cycle. That's how you leave room for God to get in and do this thing. That's how you ensure that the evil someone did to you doesn't overcome your day or week or semester. You forgive. Forgiveness stops evil in its tracks. Forgiveness breaks the power of a grudge. Forgiveness brings healing. Most importantly, **forgiveness sets you free.**

Forgiveness is freeing. Anyone who has ever held on to a grudge, and then learned to let it go, will tell you. You feel a sense of release, of relief, of liberation. Because forgiveness is getting rid of a weight you've been carrying that you were never intended to carry. It isn't saying it is okay you were hurt. It isn't even saying you have to be friends again, and pretend like what happened never did. But it *does* mean you say, "You don't owe me. I'm not holding it against you. I'm going to forgive as an act of trust in God. I am going to break the cycle. I won't let what you did consume me, own me, drive me, or control me. I am going to let God handle it."

That's what some of you need to do with your step-mom, or with that girl at your school, or your older brother. You need to put away the revenge and forgive. And here's how you forgive: **Go home. Go to your room. Grab a sheet of paper and write on it what you're holding onto.** What are you still mad about? What are the feelings that keep coming up every time you replay the incident in your head? And then say to yourself: "I'm not going to hold a grudge or seek revenge. I'm going to let it go. I'm going to trust God."

Some of you need to do that. For others of you, this is a principle you need to keep on-hand. And whenever you notice something lingering, or whenever you notice yourself reaching for revenge, or whenever you start to feel the weight of anger, or bitterness, or pain, you need to decide, "No. I am forgiving. Not because it's fair, but because I want to be free." Because **the more you hold a grudge, the more the grudge has a hold on you.** Forgiveness sets you free. So who do you need to forgive?

**WE:** What if a handful of people started to do this in your school? Your group of friends? Your family? Can you imagine the difference? What if the cycle of evil for evil just stopped for good with forgiveness? Most of us would be so much happier. Have more fun. Feel better about ourselves. Enjoy being home more. Have better relationships. Be friends with people that otherwise would be our enemies. And God would get a lot more glory. Forgiveness sets you free. It's time to for a lot of us to start letting go.

**PRAY:** Let's close in prayer together. Hey God, thank you SO INCREDIBLY MUCH for forgiving our sins and not holding a grudge against us. Help us to let go and forgive in places we have been hurt. Heal our hearts and empower us to become people who forgive others, just like you have forgiven us. Amen



**C - Practicing** - Practice sharing your message with your mom, your dog, your wall, etc.

Get to the point where you only need to glance down at your outline occasionally. Time yourself as you do to notice if your message is too long or too short (goal: 8-12 minutes). Adjust your message as needed to feel natural to you and fit in 8-12 minutes.

**D - Delivery** - Show time! Give your message to your group.

Remember, God has called you to give this message to this group “for such a time as this.” Take a deep breath, ask God to move through you, and remember He is with you!



**E - Review** - Ask a mentor, leader, or really anyone in your group to give you constructive feedback on your message, this is an important step in growing in any skill!

Ask them to share with you their thoughts of:

- What worked well?
- What could be better next time?

*PRO TIP: It's important to not to take their constructive feedback too personally. No one is perfect, even professional speakers have others access their messages and give them feedback. This is how we all can continue to grow better and better.*