

Retreat Leader's Speech

These instructions should be read to the Participants by the Retreat Leader regardless of which theme has been chosen for the Retreat. The comments should be edited by the Leader before the retreat for appropriateness for particular circumstances. If the Leader gives the first talk, this may be read after the talk is delivered; if another team member gives the first talk, this would more appropriately be placed before the first talk.

We are now going to hear some brief talks and have some discussion and prayer time about the talks in the small groups into which you have been divided.

The talks will each last 10 minutes unless noted otherwise. At the conclusion of the 10 minutes, I will rise as a signal to the speaker to wrap it up.

These talks will be witness talks from the speaker out of his/her own life. They will not be theological treatises. None of the speakers knew whether they would speak at this retreat until our team meeting last night, nor, once told that they would, what the topic was to be until last night. They have some scripture notes upon which to rely if necessary but might not even refer to those scriptures. They will be sharing with you their struggle to walk with Christ in this environment in line with their topic.

When they have finished speaking, 15 minutes of discussion in your small groups will follow. We ask that the discussions be very subjective. You will share with the others in your small group how you feel about what the speaker said. How does it hit you as you attempt to walk with Christ in this prison?

At the end of the 15 minutes, I will give you a topic about which I will ask you to share and pray with each other. You will have 10 minutes in which to do this. There will be 5 minutes for sharing with each other and 5 minutes for praying for each other.

Your group facilitator, the outside team member in your group, will then separate you into pairs. We would like you then to face each other, each share for 2 ½ minutes with your partner, then I will ask you to stand, face each other, put your arms around each other's necks (*demonstrate with another team member*) and pray aloud for the need the other has just expressed.

We will then have a break, and following the break, we will repeat this process for the next talk. We will be doing some other things during the Weekend, but this is the basic format by which we will work with the talks.

We will have lunch together in this room today and tomorrow. Tonight, we will join you for dinner in your dining room. Tomorrow, we will worship together in the prison chapel.

We should finish this retreat by 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. tomorrow afternoon. We will do so by forming a circle and having a time of prayer together.

We will now have a short break and then we will gather in our small groups and hear the first talk.