

SCC 2012 Lenten Booklet Writing Guide

Thank you for taking the time and opportunity to help shape our common journey toward the wonder of Easter this year. I want to share these suggestions as a way to help you begin the process of your own writing. Please know that our church family will be blessed by how you share your faith in this way.

Marge

How do I get started?

Begin with your own relationship with God. Good meditations are closely tied to scripture and show how it has shed light on a specific situation.

Devotional writing is first of all authentic. It connects real events of daily life with the ongoing activity of God.

Let the writing uses sensory details -- what color it was, how high it bounced, what it smelled like. The more sensory details the writing includes, the better.

Let the writing be exploratory. It searches and considers and asks questions. It examines the faith without knowing in advance what all the answers will be.

When you find yourself in the middle of some situation thinking, "Why -- that's how God is, too!" or, "That's like that story in the Bible . . .," that can become a meditation. Excellent ideas come from reading and meditating on scripture, looking for connections between it and daily life. You might want to write it out and reread it the next day.

Things to keep in mind

- Begin with studying and meditating on the Bible so its power supports your words.
- Connect scripture with your own life. Your experience is unique.
- Meditations should be about 250 words long.
- Avoid the phrases..."you should ...," "you need to ...," "we must ...," etc.
- Use language and examples that appeal to the five senses. Tell what you heard, saw, touched, smelled, tasted. When appropriate, use dialogue to tell your story.
- Make only one point. Think snapshot, not movie.
- Focus on how you can deepen the Christian commitment of readers and nurture their spiritual growth.
- Indicate the version of the Bible quoted in the text.
- Seek always to encourage readers to deeper engagement with the Bible.
- E-mail your meditation to mgraham@speedwaychristian.org by Feb. 11th.