

SPEAKUP365:

Speaker Qualification

Sample Presentation Script

He was going to kill his parents. But then God intervened through a copy of His Word. Here's how it happened.

Britt grew up in a large Baptist church in Brownwood, Texas. He and his wife had three children who came to know the Lord and attended church faithfully all their young lives. Then, during a recession, Britt lost his job.

He opened an auto repair shop in an effort to make ends meet, but the business did not do well. Depressed by the failure of his business, Britt began drinking. Before long, he was hopelessly caught up in alcoholism. From there, financial woes and his abusive actions led to an increasingly dysfunctional family.

During these troubled times, Britt received a New Testament from The Gideons. Through reading the Word and through many months of family prayer, God took control of Britt's life and turned him around.

Years later, Britt's son, Jonathon, committed a crime and was sentenced to spend one year in prison. When he was released, he was unable to keep a steady job and fell into the wrong crowd. He was introduced to marijuana and eventually became addicted to meth. By the age of 25, Jonathon was without funds to support himself, had lost interest in church, was involved with drugs, and had moved back home to live with his parents.

In the midst of all this, Jonathon began to contemplate killing his parents and committing suicide. While plotting his crime, Jonathon came across the same New Testament his dad had received years before. He sat down, began reading, and prayed for God's intervention. That evening, Jonathon went to his parents to confess his drug use and all the emotions he was struggling with. He told them God had given him hope.

Today, Jonathon is back in church, praying regularly, and recovering from drug use. Thank God for a single Gideon-placed Scripture that changed the lives of both father and son.

The Gideons International receives incredible testimonies like this one on a regular basis. That is why we serve...to see people turn to Christ after reading a Bible or New Testament.

For many of you, when you hear the name, “Gideons,” you think about the Bibles bearing The Gideons name, which you regularly see in hotels. And these have certainly been an important, and highly recognizable, part of our ministry over the last 100 plus years. However, The Gideons International is so much more.

Through your ongoing support, the majority of our distributions provide God’s Word to the next generation—students at schools and colleges. We also provide Scriptures for prisons; police, fire, and medical personnel; and those in our military. And we continually place Scriptures at the hospital right down the street, where many of you pass by each day.

The Gideons International is organized in some 200 countries, territories, and possessions. We are unique in that our members live in the countries where they serve. We are not just visitors in countries like Nepal, Haiti, or Ukraine. We know the language and the culture. Gideons work there, sharing the Gospel and copies of God’s Word with their neighbors, families, and friends.

Because of your prayerful support, last year Gideons distributed close to 82 million copies of God’s Word around the world in over 95 languages. We’re seeing results in places like India, where Scripture distributions have increased dramatically and could grow even more if the funds were available for more Scriptures.

You may be interested to know The Gideons International is now legally distributing Scriptures in The People’s Republic of China, and to date, more than 3.7 million copies have been provided. These Scriptures are distributed by Gideon teams and also made available for distribution through Christian-owned businesses. We praise God for the open doors across Asia where one out of every three people lives. We thank you for helping make this possible.

Our single purpose is to see lost people come to faith in Christ. And we seek to serve our Lord in accomplishing this goal through personal witnessing and distributing copies of God’s Word...copies you help provide.

Time and time again we find people are eager for the Word of God, and their lives are changed...eternally.

Raul Gomez rode his bike all around the city of Escobar, Argentina, looking for Gideons one afternoon. What would make him do such a thing? Well, a Gideon had given Raul a New Testament years ago; however, he had lost it. It was so important to him that he told his nine sons that each of them should receive a New Testament directly from a Gideon, as he had.

That morning, one of Raul's sons received a New Testament at school. When Raul found out, he was so excited that he got on his bicycle and didn't stop until he found the Gideons.

When asked if he had ever received Christ as his personal Savior, he said he really did not know. One of the Gideons walked Raul through the plan of salvation, and Raul prayed to receive Jesus.

We are in awe of how the Holy Spirit can speak to willing hearts.

After distributing Scriptures in 40 classrooms at the Lolombo National High School in the Philippines, Gideons entered one more classroom. It was filled with 18 hearing-impaired students. Jon Wold, a Gideon from South Dakota, stood in front of the students and presented the plan of salvation, while the teacher interpreted the message in sign language. The Holy Spirit was at work, as well. After the message, Jon asked the students to pray along with him if they wished to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior. At the conclusion of the prayer, he asked how many prayed along. All 18 students raised their hands, many of them smiling and communicating with their lips or hands, "Thank you, sir."

A Gideon-placed hotel Bible has the potential to reach more than twenty-three hundred people during its average life in a hotel room. Just imagine the impact a single copy of God's Word can make in our area alone.

Right now, millions of lost people are in need of God's Word...many of them right here in the United States. Some of them live down the street from this church and may not come to this service. So, we must go to them.

You will be interested to know that we also have an avenue of distribution to help reach the youth of America. This program, which is facilitated through church youth pastors, involves an in-school, peer-to-peer distribution by Christian high school students to their classmates of an attractive booklet referred to as The Life Book. Since 2010, over 29 million copies of The Life Book, which comes in two versions with either the Gospel of John or the Gospel of Mark, have been provided to Christian youth for distribution to their peers. This avenue of distribution strengthens our long-standing program of placing the Word of God into the hands of young people.

We need your help to continue to reach students, and to reach hotels, and to reach countries around the world...starting with prayer. Please pray that we will have a steady flow of funds to purchase and place Bibles and New Testaments in the coming months. Secondly, pray that we will have more men and their wives join The Gideons International to help meet the growing need for distributing God's

Word. And finally, pray those who receive God's Word today will not only open the Scriptures...but also open their hearts to Christ.

And, if the Lord has spoken to your heart today about the impact His Word is making through this ministry, please consider making a financial gift to The Gideons International. For an investment of less than a dollar and twenty cents, you can provide for the purchase and placement of a Scripture somewhere in the world. This includes all the costs involved in getting a Scripture into the hands of someone who needs it.

Where God leads, He provides. Perhaps today you could fill one hundred open and waiting hands. Your donation of \$120 will result in a box of New Testaments reaching the hands of men, women, and children in a country where many people can't afford God's Word.

For your convenience, you can make your check payable to "The Gideons International" or use the credit card form available in your bulletin insert today. You can amplify your impact by making a monthly donation as well. And there's a QR code on the insert, which you can scan with your mobile device and make a donation for God's Word. Whatever the means, the return on your investment has never been better.

You can also donate Scriptures anytime through using GideonCards. These are used in memory of a loved one or to let someone know you're praying for them. You can send a card to a family or friend, and send your donation to The Gideons. This is a unique and memorable way to touch thousands of lives with God's Word through a simple greeting card. Look for the display in your lobby or at our website located in your bulletin insert.

Pastor, thank you for the opportunity to share about the ministry of The Gideons International. We are simply an extended missions arm of your church, witnessing to the lost and distributing God's Word across the globe—and right here at home. It's been a privilege to participate in your worship service today. If you would like to learn more, please see me after the service. Thank you for your time. God bless you.