

Funeral Participation Guide

"Therefore comfort one another with these words." (1 Thessalonians 4:18, NASB)

Funerals provide an opportunity to celebrate life and comfort those left behind. They also offer an opportunity to share God's perspective on life and death. Whether you are eulogizing a friend or officiating an entire funeral, you will want to center your comments around Scripture. Here are some tips.

Five Tips for Sharing in a Funeral

1. Clarity your relationship to the deceased. It will help frame your remarks for those who may not know you.
2. Be honest, authentic, and positive. People want to hear your thoughts and memories in your own words.
3. Make a few notes if necessary. Your emotions may get the best of you while you are speaking.
4. Read your selected Scripture passage word for word or quote it from memory. We
5. Keep your comments brief. Funerals are emotionally draining and should not be drug out unnecessarily.

Select Old Testament Passages to Share at Funerals

Genesis 3:14-19	The struggle of life and the promise of redemption
Psalms 23	The shepherding care of God
Psalms 121	God's enduring help and protection
Psalms 127	The providence of God and the blessing of children
Proverbs 9:1-6	An invitation to a wise life
Proverbs 31:10-31	Praise of an exceptional woman and mother
Ecclesiastes 3:1-11	The seasons of life and our longing for eternity
Isaiah 35:1-6	Joy in the midst of sorrow
Isaiah 61:1-3	Good news for the afflicted
Jeremiah 29:10-14	God's good plans for His people
Zephaniah 3:16-20	The comfort and salvation of God

Select New Testament Passages to Share at Funeral

Matthew 11:25-30	An invitation to find rest in God
Luke 7:11-17	Christ's compassion for those who've lost loved ones
Luke 23:39-43	The promise of heaven for those who trust in Christ Jesus
John 5:24-29	The promise of a resurrection
John 6:37-40	Jesus is the one who gives eternal life
John 11:30-37	Christ's grief at the tomb of Lazarus
John 14:1-3	The promise of a home in heaven
Romans 8:18-25	Our present sufferings and our future victory
1 Corinthians 15:51-57	The mystery of the resurrection and power of Jesus Christ
2 Corinthians 5:1-8	To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord
Ephesians 2:1-10	New life in Jesus Christ and God's grace in salvation
Philippians 1:21-26	To live is Christ and to die is gain
Philippians 4:5-7	The promise of peace in the hard times
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Grieving with hope and the coming resurrection
Timothy 2:8-13	Death and life in Jesus Christ
1 Peter 1:3-9	The path to a living hope
1 John 3:1-2	We will see Him someday, just as He is
Revelation 21:1-5	God comforts His people in heaven

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