

# Choosing a Visiting Speaker

---

*A visiting speaker or professional team can make a real impact at a special event. Using a person or group from your own church or a neighbouring one can be excellent too. A lesser known person sometimes has extra impact because it gives them the chance to ask others to pray, step up and trust God for what they know they can't do themselves.*

*Always brief a speaker well (this goes for anyone taking part in your event). Here are some questions to help you.*

---

## **What do you hope the speaker will accomplish?**

- Do you want them to entertain, teach a certain concept, encourage listeners to take a faith step, share a personal story, provide alternative viewpoints, or leave the audience something to think about?
- Ask for references, or the names of churches who have used the visiting speaker in the past. Ask these churches what the outcomes were for their event. Do these align with the purpose of your event?
- Ensure the speaker knows the purpose of your event, and what you hope to accomplish.

## **What is the audience likely to be expecting?**

- Do they know there will be a talk about faith?
- Have they been to your church events before?
- How has the event been promoted?

## **How are those in the audience likely to be feeling?**

- Will they be comfortable with the people, program and surroundings?
- Might they be defensive?
- Are they there only for their kids?

## **What is the culture of those who will be invited?**

- Is English their first language?
- Are they familiar with church? What kind of church?
- In what ways are they different from those organising the event, or from the proposed speaker?

## **What will happen before and after the speaker?**

- Is it a church service, a meal, a games program?

## **What is the timeframe and what might impact on time available?**

- Work with your speaker to achieve the best results. Confirm all the details at a suitable time beforehand.

Arrange for people to pray for and with the speaker before they speak and follow up with a thank you a few days later.