

FROM
**TONY
JEARY**

PRESENTATION ACTIVITIES

BREVITY IS THE SOUL OF WIT

WHAT

A way to demonstrate that effective speaking or writing is clear and concise, and should not use needlessly large words or long-winded sentences.

HOW

1. Prepare a sheet on which is printed some revised famous witty sayings. You should revise these sayings so that they are so complex they are nearly indecipherable. Examples:
 - A. "A popular method of piecing textiles and other fabrics, both synthetic and natural, together completed within the boundaries of temporal divisions of the day, will ultimately preserve an amount that is one under ten." ("A stitch in time saves nine.")
 - B. "A daily ritual of consuming, for a meal, the fruit which is central to the tale of Adam and Eve in the creation story will be an effective way to keep the healer from approaching one's person or dwelling place." ("An apple a day keeps the doctor away.")
 - C. "It is most unwise and highly inadvisable to engage in a census of the offspring of one's hen prior to the actual termination of the embryonic stage and the actual removal of the shell of the young organism's embryonic shell." ("Don't count your chickens before they hatch.")
2. Do not print the answers on the handout. See who can guess the adage at the root of the verbose sentences. Let group members make up their own wordy witticisms.

DISCUSSION

Why is it so important to use clear, concise language when we are sharing our faith or ministering to people?

MATERIALS

Preprinted handouts with rewritten famous sayings

TIME REQUIRED

A few minutes per saying



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DO THE RIGHT THING

WHAT

An activity that emphasizes the influence we have on others and the importance of lining up our actions with our words.

HOW

1. Ask group members to extend their right arms parallel to the floor, and then instruct them to make a circle with their thumbs and forefingers. Do this along with the group.
2. Then say, "Now bring your hand quickly to your chin." As you say this, bring your own hand to your cheek, not your chin.
3. As you look around the room, you will probably notice that a large number of people have brought their hands to their cheeks, as well. Allow them a few seconds to notice their error; laughter will probably begin to trickle around the room.

DISCUSSION

1. Why did so many people do what I did, instead of what I said? What does this say about the level of influence our actions have over our words? And what does this say about our tendency to follow someone blindly rather than finding out what God's Word says about it and doing the right thing?
2. As Christians, why is it important to lead not only with words, but with actions as well? What do you think of the old adage, "Don't do as I say; do as I do"?

MATERIALS

None

TIME REQUIRED

5 to 10 minutes

