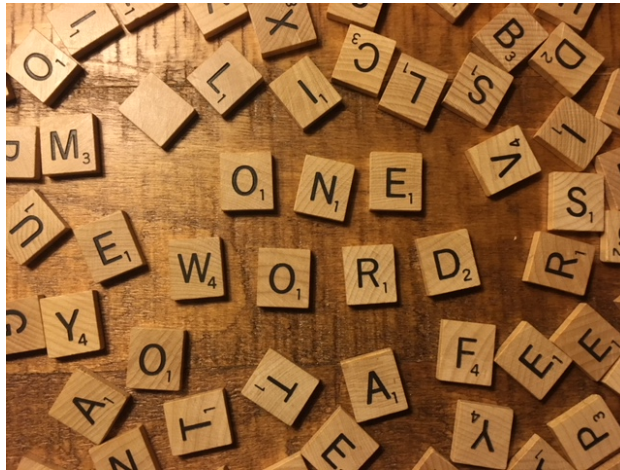


# **EAST REGION ADVANCED ESL TRAINING**

**CHETS CREEK CHURCH / JACKSONVILLE, FL**

**FEBRUARY 22, 2020**

## **CREATING A DEVOTION USING ONE WORD**



**STRUCTURE**

**SOURCE**

**SCRIPTURE**

**STEP**

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# STRUCTURE

## GUIDELINES TO KEEP IN MIND

- **PRAY:** Pray for an effective word that reflects a spiritual truth.
- **WHO:** Create your devotion to target **all** of your students. There will be a wide range of English comprehension. Seek to make the devotion understandable for your beginners and interesting for your Intermediate and Advanced students.
- **LENGTH:** Devotions are usually part of the Large Group time. Keep your devotion focused and brief. Cut the big truths of God into small pieces and this will allow even the Beginner English student to understand. Large Group time is usually only 30 minutes long and may include not only the devotion but fellowship time, refreshments, announcements, introductions of new students, and sharing prayer requests. Our goal is for Large Group time to end on schedule to protect the final block of teaching time.
- **ONE WORD TECHNIQUE:** Keep in mind that using one word is only one technique for devotions, there are many others. Using one word as the central idea for your devotion will help narrow your focus. Allow your message to come from your heart. Make it personal and relatable to life experience. Being concise may be a challenge but not impossible. Object lessons may be used in combination to illustrate the word you use. Try to include student participation as much as possible.
- **BASIC STRUCTURE:**
  - **Opening:** Grab the interest of your group. Ask a question or share a short experience or illustration using the word selected. Make it something interesting that will cause them to engage and pay attention.
  - **Introduce Your One Word:** Pronounce your word and give the different definitions used. Provide sentences using the word with each definition. It may be helpful to let the sentences illustrate the spiritual truth as well.

- **Main Point:** When teaching your spiritual truth, always back it up with scripture not just quotes and general knowledge. Guard your focus and make it point back to your word. Make every word count by keeping the message simple and understandable. Use a poem, song, or jazz chant to bring the point home. If the student reads, sings, or participates in the closing it will cause them to remember the main point longer.
- **Closing Challenge:** Challenge them to respond by encouraging an action, or give them something (object or picture) to remind them of the message. Always close with a prayer.
- **Handout:** If possible, give the students a handout of the devotion to take home. It will encourage them to reflect on the word after the class is over, read the scripture shared again, and perhaps make a step toward life change. Using pictures that illustrate the word and definitions is helpful especially for Beginner students. On your handout it is a good idea to set the scripture apart from a quote or general knowledge.



**Resource:** Jazz chants are a great way to highlight the word or scripture you use. This way the students hear the verses introduced in the devotion and speak them as well. Here are two resources for Jazz Chants which also offer tips on how to write your own:

- [Bible Verse Chants for Teaching English as a Second Language](#)  
By Glenda Reece
- [Jazz Chants](#) by Carolyn Graham

# SOURCE

## FINDING YOUR ONE WORD

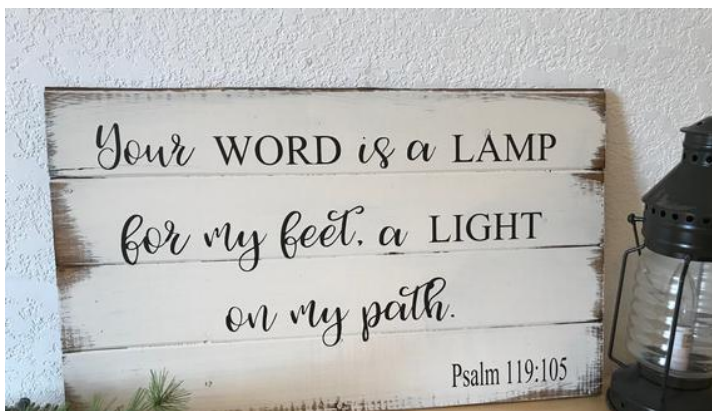
- **BE INTENTIONAL:** Listen for and capture key words used in a sermon, a devotion, or personal experience. In addition, the theme of holidays usually provides a number of words that can be used. Use words that are used in normal conversation. If the word is common in conversation, you will be sharing a spiritual truth as well as helping the students learn and practice English vocabulary.
- **IDEAS AND SOURCES:** Words to use can come from any experience, comment, quote, activity, holiday. . . anything that grabs your attention. Words also may be found in interactions with your students. Use a word they may have trouble speaking or understanding. Be alert and you will gather words to use in your next devotion. Be creative. Here are some topics to explore and one word examples to use:
  - Attributes of God (provider, accessible, grace, guide, mercy)
  - Children's books (Friendship – I Wish You More)
  - Puzzles (optical illusion)
  - Bible Stories (Stone – David and Goliath)
  - Objects (crayons, circle, gummy worm)
  - Common words (famous, value, words, keep, default)
  - Everyday things (invitation)
  - Sports (March Madness, Super Bowl football)
  - Cartoons (idioms, emotions)
  - Holidays (Christmas, New Year, Valentine's Day, Easter)
  - Actions (plugged in, steps, race)
  - Nature / Seasons (forecast, trees)
  - People (Toddler Truth, hands)
  - Emotions (worry)



# SCRIPTURE

## Sharing Spiritual Truth and the Gospel

- **MAIN IDEA:** The main idea and the purpose of the devotion is to draw those who hear it toward an understanding of the Gospel message and a vibrant relationship with God.
- **CHOOSING SCRIPTURE VERSES:**
  - **Internet Source: Bible Gateway** - <https://www.biblegateway.com/>  
This is a great resource to not only search for a verse using your word but also to have that verse available in different translations. It can also be a resource if you wish to provide the students with a printed translation of the verse in their own language. This is especially helpful for Beginner students. There are several translations for ‘easy reading’. This can be helpful to use so English learners can understand the scripture shared.
  - When choosing a verse insure you read the verse in context so the meaning you are sharing is the scripturally correct meaning of the verse. Compare translations to insure the meaning of the verse remains constant.
  - The most effective scripture passage is usually short – 25 words or less. If the scripture is too long it will be a challenge for the students to understand.
  - When you include the scripture verse on the handout, try to include the version of the Bible you use. (KJV, NIRV, ect.)



# STEP

## CHALLENGING APPLICATIONS

- End your devotion with a challenge to your students to practice using this new word in conversation as well as acting on what they have learned.
- Always remember that many of your students may not be believers and come from different faith backgrounds. Use your devotion to plant the seeds of faith as well as serve as an appetizer, leaving them seeking to know more.
- The application can be as simple as a thought to ponder or as challenging as an action step to take in order to apply the scriptural truth for life change. Aim for the application to provide a practical way to use the word or spiritual truth.
- Always close with a prayer that will point the students toward the spiritual truth shared and your love for them.



# PRACTICE



**PICK A WORD:**

**DEFINITION AND PRONUNCIATION**

**OPENING:**

**MAIN POINT AND SCRIPTURE:**

**CLOSING CHALLENGE:**