

APCE Workshop

E514

You Can Write!

Devotional Writing for Beginners

Rev. Nancy Boote

Primary Resources Used in Presentation:

Highlights from Words of Hope Devotional Writing Workshop (used with permission)

The Art of Spiritual Writing: How to Craft Prose That Engages and Inspires Your Readers by Vinita Hampton Wright

Why Write?

- Words matter and we have Good News to share!
- Writing connects the head and the heart.
- Writing about the Bible inspires us and others.

What is Spiritual Writing? (from The Art of Spiritual Writing)

- Spiritual writing is true.
- Spiritual writing is courageous.
- Spiritual writing is hopeful.
- Spiritual writing is engaging.

Personal Writing vs. Public Writing

Personal writing:

- Is for the person doing the writing.
- Doesn't translate well to an audience.
- Helps those close to the event understand it better through storytelling.
- Is usually emotional, passionate, and tunnel visioned.

Public writing:

- Needs time to gestate.
- Shaped for the readers not the writers.
- Takes something concrete and makes it more universal so all readers can relate.

Devotional Writing

- Is a guide to daily worship that involves reading the Bible and praying.
- Starts with the Word and points back to the Word.

Lectio Divina – Sacred Reading

- 4 Movements:
 - Read
 - Reflect
 - Respond
 - Rest

Structure of a Devotion

- Look - something to draw readers in
- Book – Bible is central.
- Took – Application

Different Kinds of Applications: SPACEPETS (source – unknown)

- **S** – sin to confess?
- **P** – promise to claim?
- **A** – attitude to change?
- **C** – command to obey?
- **E** – example to follow?
- **P** – prayer to pray?
- **E** – error to avoid?
- **T** – truth to believe?
- **S** – something to praise God for?

Potholes to Avoid:

- Offering more opinion than thought
- Telling the readers what they “must” feel
- Plagiarizing
- Sharing too many ideas
- Forgetting the most important thing – love
- Avoiding edits

ALWAYS KEEP JESUS FIRST

Words of Hope

If you would like to explore writing for Words of Hope, please contact:

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