

“How to Write Devotions People Love to Share”
by Beth Patch – CBN.com
Workshop for Devotional Writing

“Don’t shine so that others can see you. Shine so that through you others can see Him.” C.S. Lewis

Devotions Overview

- **Capture** the reader’s attention
- **Present** a story that draws the reader in
- **Tell** how that story is a reflection of a biblical truth
- **Support** the biblical truth with Scripture
- **Include** life application and prayer

Four Basic Elements of Devotions

Element #1 - STORY

Core Belief – every day God gives us new content

WHERE you get your story

- Life experiences
- Nature
- Holidays
- History
- News - preferably evergreen
- Books or Children’s stories/Bible stories

Element #2 - TRUTH

- What’s the moral of the story - spiritual insight?
- Pick one word or short phrase topic to describe the heart of the message

Element #3 - SCRIPTURE

- In concordance, study Bible, or online search “Bible verses about ...”
- Find the verse(s) that best supports the truth of your devotion. Always in context

Element #4 - TAKE AWAY

- Help the reader apply the lesson to their life/ put this inspiration into action
- Prayers, food for thought, reflection questions

TRANSITIONS - between each of those elements.

“FULL CIRCLE” - The story that was introduced strengthens the take-away

Examples - Different Angles

- **Life Experiences** - Head's Up - <https://www1.cbn.com/devotions/heads-up-people>
- **Nature** - Crazy Dog <https://www1.cbn.com/devotions/crazy-dog>
- **Fun Facts** - Elephant String <https://www1.cbn.com/devotions/elephant-string>
- **Holidays**
- (New Year) - The Coming Days <https://www1.cbn.com/devotions/coming-days>
- (Christmas) - A Message for Santa - <https://www1.cbn.com/devotions/message-for-santa>
- **Family/Children** - [JoJo's Life Changing Journey](#)
- **History** (Cortes - the 1500s) - Burn All Ships <https://www1.cbn.com/devotions/burn-all-ships>
- **Movies** - It's Just a Flesh Wound - <https://www1.cbn.com/devotions/its-just-a-flesh-wound>
- **News** - (Susan Boyle - Britian's got talent) Susan Boyle: Judging God's Way - <https://www1.cbn.com/devotions/Susan-Boyle-Judging-Gods-Way>
- **Bible Stories** - Betrayed, But Not Alone - Bring the scene alive! - <https://www1.cbn.com/devotions/betrayed-but-not-alone>
- **Fictional Story** - Be careful! - Who Is the Landlord of Your House? - <https://www1.cbn.com/devotions/who-landlord-your-house>

Suggested Reference Books:

- [*On Writing Well*](#) by William Zinsser
- [*The Elements of Style, Fourth Edition*](#) by William Strunk, Jr. & E.B. White
- [*The Christian Writers Market Guide-2021 Edition*](#) by Steve Laube
- [*Writer's Market 2020: The Most Trusted Guide to Getting Published*](#), editor Robert Lee Brewer