

Elizabeth Pylant

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Public Speaking Event

My name is Elizabeth Pylant and I live in a small town called Citronelle, Alabama. I am currently an active member of our local Gulf Coast Tres Dias group that is a group of Christian men and women who serve Christ and our community by hosting two weekends a year where we disciple other Christians looking for a closer walk with the Lord and to grow in their faith. This past weekend at the Father's House Church in Daphne, Alabama on Saturday, September 3rd, 2022 at 10 AM Central time, I attended a women's Gulf Coast Tres Dias meeting in preparation for our upcoming discipleship, sequestered weekend. During this meeting three women presented the practice of the talks they will be giving during the upcoming weekend. These talks are on specific topics that include required content along some personal testimony relating to the topic that they are presenting to an audience of their peers. We simply refer to them as 'practice talks'. The specific practice talk topic that I got to observe, and critique was 'Reunion Groups'. The speaker was a lady named Karen Powell. I chose this talk not only because I was required to attend the meeting as a community member serving on the weekend, but because I have previously given it myself and knew the required content, which made me able to give a better critique.

Karen, the speaker, was dressed in what I would describe as her Sunday's best. I think it was very appropriate for the setting. She opened her speech the same way we all do in our community by giving her name, the number weekend of Tres Dias that she originally attending

and the name of the table she sat at. We, the audience, all clap to make her feel welcomed and encouraged. She then jokingly opened by mentioning that she hoped we saved her a lemon filled donut since she was running a little late getting to the meeting. Everyone gave a little laugh and then Karen began with her content. She continued by defining what a reunion group is and how one may go about becoming a part of one or even starting one themselves and how important they are. This was the required content part.

Our speaker then moved on to share a little of her testimony and how when her son was in the hospital, it was the women of this community that were a part of her reunion group who came and picked up the slack for her. They did this by making meals for her family on a regular basis for three months, by taking her other two children back and forth to school and sports while her husband was working out of town, and she was at the hospital with her sick son. She also told us how more importantly, they let her know it was okay to accept the help and to even let one of these cherished ladies sit with her son while she went home and showered and rested.

Karen did not seem nervous at all while talking. She was great at eye contact with the audience and connected with us on a more personal level by sharing that testimony. I paid close attention to what she was saying not only because I had a critique form to fill out for the speech, but also because I was truly captivated by her words and the way she presented them. She made me wish I could go back and re-give the reunion talk myself. She ended on a lighter note by telling us that even though reunion groups are important for the tough times they are equally as important for fun fellowship like a girl's trip to the beach with no kids and husbands as a distraction. Everyone in the audience laughed and gave her a nice applause.

I think Karen did a great job overall with her talk. The only constructive criticism I had for her was to say 'um' less and to maybe use more layman's terms instead of the large

vocabulary words. The only external distraction was when Karen would read from her notes her voice projected to the podium instead of out to the audience and it made it a tad difficult to hear what she was saying. Overall, I really enjoyed this talk and am excited to hear it at the weekend and see how all the new ladies react to it.