

# TTT 388. How to Host Live Interviews.

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## Teaching Tip 388 | “How to Host Live Interviews.” | Malcolm Cox

Do you like watching interviews? They are a staple of television and all online media. We are endlessly fascinated by the lives and opinions of other people. Have you used this format in a church service? I did so recently for the first time in Watford. We had [Dr Jennifer Konzen](#) in town, and I interviewed her in our traditional 'sermon' slot. Here is the link: <https://fb.watch/vFNI6ceZUU/>. The interview starts at the 42-minute mark. We received positive feedback and requests for more or the same. Let me share some lessons I learned.

1. **It is biblical.** Nicodemus John 3.1-21; Rich young ruler Mk 10.17-22; Woman at the well John 4.1-12; Pilate and Jesus, John 18.33-37.
2. **Speciality and needs.** Know their specialities and find the relevance for your group.
3. **Agree on the main topics.** I checked beforehand to see if the topics of forgiveness and intimacy with God would work for Jennifer.
4. **Prepare more than you need.** I sent Jennifer ten questions, but we used less than that. I have included the questions I prepared below.
5. **Question Types.** Ask some open-ended questions, and some that invite practical application.
6. **Introduction.** I considered introducing Jennifer to the congregation, but apart from mentioning that we have met and I have read one of her books and heard her speak, I let her introduce herself. If you're introducing a best friend, that's different. But if it's someone you don't know especially well, it can sound inauthentic to give a detailed introduction. I simply asked her, "Jennifer, why don't you introduce yourself and tell us what you would like us to know about you?"
7. **Prepare to pivot.** Some questions I asked were not on the list because the conversation went off on a helpful tangent.
8. **Expand.** Since this is the sermon slot, I felt it was occasionally helpful to make my own comment on what she was saying. I turned away from looking at her toward the congregation and emphasised something I thought would be useful.
9. **Conclusion questions.** I prepared some conclusion questions for the congregation: What stood out to you today? How did God show up for you? What will be useful on Monday? Is there anything to talk about with a friend?

## Conclusion

I found the format refreshing. So did the congregation according to the feedback I received. We went longer than normal, but the subject matter, the speaker and the format being unusual, most people stayed engaged. I would not want to do the same thing too often. But, I want to do interviews more often and refine them as a useful tool in the speaking toolbox.

What are your experiences of conducting or listening to interviews similar to the one that I did? What recommendations do you have to make them effective?

Next time, we will explore how to prepare Christmas lessons.

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Please add your comments on this week's topic. We learn best when we learn in community.

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<https://aim.moodlecloud.com/>.

Do you have a question about teaching the Bible? Is it theological, technical, or practical? Please send me your questions or suggestions. Here's the email: [malcolm@malcolmcox.org](mailto:malcolm@malcolmcox.org).

If you'd like a copy of my free eBook on spiritual disciplines, "How God grows His people", sign up at my website: <http://www.malcolmcox.org>.

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Keep calm and carry on teaching.

God bless, Malcolm

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## Question List

### On Forgiveness:

- 1. How would you describe the role of forgiveness in mental and emotional health?*
- 2. What are some practical steps for someone who struggles with forgiving others or themselves?*
- 3. How do you advise people to balance the need to forgive with establishing healthy boundaries?*
- 4. In cases where someone finds forgiveness particularly hard, what does that often indicate about their personal growth or healing process?*
- 5. What role does forgiveness play in repairing relationships with others, and how does it impact one's relationship with God?*

## On Talking Honestly with God:

- 1. How can someone cultivate a more open and honest dialogue with God, especially if they feel distant or unheard?*
- 2. Are there any specific practices or prayers you recommend for people wanting to express deep or painful feelings to God?*
- 3. How do you reconcile feelings of anger or disappointment with the belief in God's goodness?*
- 4. Why do you think some people find it hard to be completely honest with God, and how can they overcome these barriers?*
- 5. What are some benefits you've seen when people are transparent with God, especially in times of struggle?*