

## Writing Devotions

*Devotions are short, inspiring illustrations with a biblical takeaway.  
Writing them is one of the easiest ways to break in to publishing.*

Devotion or devotional?

Who reads them and where do you find them?

What makes a devotion effective?

Advantages of writing devotions

Do:

Don't:

Where to find ideas for topics

Where to get published

Paying or non-paying markets?

Random ideas:

A few thoughts about devotionals (books)

**A Challenge:** Come up with an idea for a devotion while you're here at the conference and work on writing it according to the guidelines of one of the companies shown below (or another company). Submit it after tweaking it. And then celebrate what you've done.

***The Upper Room*** – find guidelines and tips at <https://submissions.upperroom.org/guidelines>

Their “formula” is one that works well for devotions in general.

- A personal story/incident that catches the reader's interest
- What that incident taught the writer about faith or their relationship to God
- An application/take-away that the reader can apply to their own life

***Christian Devotions*** – find guidelines at [www.christiandevotions.us/writeforus](http://www.christiandevotions.us/writeforus)

Here's the “formula” they use (as mentioned on their website).

**Hook** – Catch the reader's interest with a brief story or shocking statement.

**Book** – Declare the theme and meaning of the passage. “Book” is the meat of the devotion. It's God's words and truth. “Book” is also the one place where most devotions fail to make an impact. If you need help finding the hidden treasures in a passage, ask our staff. We're happy to provide insight into Scripture without changing your voice and story.

**Look** – Present the big picture and offer a practical application.

**Took** – Lead to a decision by offering the reader an action statement. Challenge the reader to change.