



Audience Responses

Thank you for hearing God and sharing it with us. You are amazing!

That's the best sermon I've ever heard, man.

I love your heart and your transparency and so does our Lord!

Wow! There is no chance of falling asleep when you are speaking!

The Holy Spirit's presence within you radiates through you!

You should quit your day job and teach!

I needed a word from God and he knew it. Thank you!

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ith the skill of a teacher and the heart of a storyteller, Damon engages the hearts, minds, and emotions of his audience as he calls men and women into the practice of Long-View Living in a Short-View World.

With disarming, real-life transparency, Damon shares his own life-experiences, bringing them alongside biblical narratives in a manner that infuses the stories of our spiritual ancestors with life.

Damon's passion is to demonstrate to his audience that the Bible is not a "dead word" from God, but rather that it is a vibrantly living Word, relevant for today. Those embracing the Long View can walk confidently through life knowing that God is with us and for us, rather than over us and against us. God is on our side!

As a former pastor (now IT professional) Damon is a word-crafter, one who delights in an artfully-woven sentence the way a chef delights in a deliciously-prepared meal. He has served as a keynote speaker for retreats, seminars, graduation ceremonies, and more, addressing audiences as intimate as a handful, to auditoriums filled with thousands.

Damon presents the Word of God in an easy-to-grasp manner, giving the audience just enough historical background to understand what is happening culturally in the biblical narrative. He then suggests ways the audience can move forward from this encounter with practical, relevant, and challenging insights for our daily walk with Christ.



Keynotes:

What Do You See? (Seeing others as Jesus' sees them.)

Damon examines the ways look at one another – ways that are often degrading, and even dehumanizing. People become things to us, rather than men and women created in the image of God. Damon takes the audience on a journey through John chapter nine, looking at the conversations and interactions with the man born blind. We see him as the people saw him, and then we see him the way Jesus says we should see him.

We / Me (Personalizing my standing with Christ.)

We / Me is an exploration of the group-phenomenon Christian experience pitted against the acute singularity of the atonement each of us needs from Jesus. Through study of the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican, the audience is challenged to move from the group mentality that says, “God, we have sinned. Forgive us,” to saying “God I have sinned. Forgive me.” – from “Please save us, Lord.” to “Lord, please save me.”

Coloring Inside the Lines (Following rules, or following the Lord.)

Damon takes an in-depth look at the parable of the Good Samaritan, and does so veering away from common themes drawn from this well-known parable. Drawing on the cultural background, the Law, and the traditions, Damon is able to shed light on the parable for life-changing perspectives that are challenging, fascinating, and easy to miss without the background.

Failure is Not Fatal (What to do when I fall flat on my face.)

In an achievement-driven society that defines “success” in exceedingly materialistic ways, the tendency is to evaluate our walk with Christ using a similar measuring stick. Damon rejects the worldly definitional baseline, and demonstrates from Jesus' own words how success for a Christ-follower is found in how we handle inevitable moral and ethical failure.

For other topic options or for specific needs:
Contact Damon at Contact@damonjgray.org,
or via the Contact page at <http://www.damonjgray.org>



Keynotes 2:

Allegiance to the King (Aligning our loyalties.)

Damon draws on the Parable of the Pounds to examine how Christ-followers behave when the Master is not looking. In this parable from Jesus, the nobleman assigned his servants a very specific task, and then went away. Like them, how do we conduct ourselves in the Master's absence?

The Invitation (God invites us to share in his banquet.)

In the parable of the Great Banquet we are told how a meal is prepared, and once ready, the invited guests are called to attend. At that point we hear the stream of absurd reasons (excuses) offered for not being able to attend the banquet. By extension, Jesus has invited us to his banquet table, and he "compels" us to join him there.

For Honor of His Name (God never dishonors His own name.)

In this discourse, the audience walks through Jesus' parable of the Friend at Midnight, a story from Jesus that is often read as little more than an encouragement to be persistent in prayer. Damon approaches the story from the angle of honor, demonstrating for the audience how Jesus wants us to understand that God hears and answers our prayers because his holy honor demands that he do so.

Crying For Justice (God will avenge his own quickly.)

Similar to the previous keynote, this sister presentation looks at the parable of the Unjust Judge, a parable in which a persistent widow pesters a judge into granting her a favorable judgement. Rather than read this as a call from Jesus to petition God endlessly until we get what we want from him, Damon shows how the parable teaches us something quite different – that it is unnecessary to badger God because God is everything this unjust judge is not.



Endorsements:

Damon Gray is an excellent speaker whose intelligence, emotional openness, warmth and humor engage his audience in both heart and mind. His lively talks express both profound biblical knowledge and deep understanding of human nature. His teaching is captivating, and his handling of difficult topics is nothing short of brilliant. I would warmly recommend Damon as a speaker to groups of any size.

Rachelle Gardner – Literary Agent

Books & Such Literary Agency, Colorado Springs, CO

Damon Gray speaks not only with depth of knowledge of the Scriptures, but with passion birthed from his love for Jesus. Damon can be vulnerable and mighty at the same time as he brings you into his stories and then shares the hope of Christ. Besides his speaking ability, Damon is a listener and a learner, coming to your group not just to bring a message but to also serve his audience.

Emily Nelson – Speaker, Emcee, Humorist, Writer, and Church Planter

Board of Directors at The Freedom Story & Shepherd's Gate, San Francisco, CA

Damon Gray is a speaker who penetrates right to the heart of his audience. His vulnerability and passion for God are inspiring, allowing his audience to take God at His word. He has such a relatable way of teaching - the Word comes alive and becomes applicable to the lives of each soul present. It is rare to find speakers who are able to share with the level of vulnerability and wisdom found in Damon Gray. He is a gift, and he has a gift. I highly recommend him without any reservations.

April Chapman – Speaker and Writer

Marketing Manager at EVOC Excellence, Phoenix, AZ

I have had the pleasure of hearing Damon speaking numerous times. His blend of biblical fervor and candor is both refreshing and inspiring! You would be blessed to have this amazing man of God address your group!

Amberly Neese – Humorist, Author, and Speaker

Mouthpeace Ministries, Prescott, AZ

Pursue Jesus, Practice Love is the mission of this church and Damon Gray embodies this mission in his writing and speaking. He speaks with a blend of no-nonsense, organic, real-life word pictures and interweaves his own life challenges and experiences with the authority of what God's word has to say. If you want to hear the latest psycho-babble, then Damon isn't your choice. But if you want to be challenged and motivated to live an overcoming and courageous life, then you will want to hear what he has on his heart.

Jim Visbeek MACS – Lead Pastor

Victory Christian Fellowship, Lynden, WA



Logistics:

Facility:

Damon is fairly mobile as he speaks, so a wireless microphone is helpful. An over-the-ear model works best, but a lapel mic is fine so long as it does not produce feedback. Damon prefers not to use a handheld microphone.

If the facility can accommodate slides, Damon can incorporate PowerPoint into his presentation. Specifics on that will need to be discussed ahead of time. If the facility can do audio and/or video recording, Damon would love to have a copy. If you would like to distribute copies within your organization, feel free to do so, but please do not distribute outside your church or organization.

Damon's podium preference is something light – even a music stand is great. Also, he likes to have a second stand or small table for his Bible. If a bottle of water can be made available, that would be much appreciated. If not, a paper cup will work just fine.

Atmosphere:

Damon enjoys interacting with the audience at different points during his presentations, so it is helpful to have house lighting up enough that he can see the audience.

Honorarium - 2017:

- One presentation \$200
- Up to three presentations (same day) \$500
- Three presentations & one Q & A (w/overnight) \$1,000

Travel:

In addition to an honorarium, the host is responsible for lodging, if required, and round-trip travel from Lynden, WA. Travel by automobile is billed at \$0.565 per mile.

If the event is more than a four-hour drive each direction, Damon's preference is to fly. Round-trip air travel is from Bellingham, WA (BLI) for events in the United States. For Canadian events, Damon flies from Abbotsford, BC (YXX).

It is Damon's earnest desire to make the working relationship with the Event Coordinator as easy and enjoyable as possible!