

## History

Holly Smith is the founder of Hidden Voices Ministries, a speaking group which originated as a pilot group in her church. Colleen Foshee was instrumental in helping her organize, lead, and encourage the group.

While attending a women's conference in 2008 and hearing other women speak, Holly felt a strong impression that she also must begin to tell her story. She envisioned a speaking group where women's lives would be revived as they shared their individual journeys and God's faithfulness to them.

She implemented a simple format to draw women to speak transparently in a loving, accepting atmosphere. The purpose was to cause women to experience the redemptive potential in the hardships they had endured and to give courage and hope to others to overcome.

Holly knew that everyone had a unique contribution to make. Collectively each women's story formed a tapestry of God's wisdom. Holly became energized because of the response women had to this format and the growth she observed in their development. Holly sees great potential in others and is passionate about activating the gift of speaking in women.

Hidden Voices is a ministry designed to help strengthen women's voices to speak openly about their professions of faith. This is accomplished in an intimate group setting where women practice speaking, receive constructive feedback, and become equipped to fulfill their potential to glorify God.

### Mission and Purpose:

- To strengthen women's voices of testimony, giving hope and courage to others to overcome trials.
- To provide a platform for women to tell their stories, clarify spiritual ideas, and share wisdom from their journey with God.
- To celebrate these emerging voices with ongoing, loving support.
- To gain confidence in public speaking, identify calling, and plug into a place of service.

- To ignite and unite the hearts of women in various churches with a simple format to start their own speaking groups.

Simple Format for beginners:

- A. Speak as if you are talking to a girlfriend over coffee.
- B. Tell them what God is teaching you or doing in your life right now.
- C. Theme, objective, obstacle, plight, application, take home challenge
- D. Speak 5-10 minutes, keeping to specifics.

Hidden Voices Ministry Helps:

Every age, nationality, profession, and ability benefits from this group's intimate setting to share testimony, get feedback, and teaching tips.

Generally speaking, the age of the women varied from 20 to 65. We encourage the young and elderly to re-engage in their public profession of faith, as this seems to form a tapestry of God's manifold wisdom.

We exist to:

Bring the story another needs to hear.

Know who we are in Christ in order to speak effectively.

Values:

Inspiration	Unity	Authenticity	Encouragement
Acceptance	Fellowship	Courage	Peace

Scriptures:

I Cor. 1:5 For in him you have been enriched in every way--in all your speaking and all your knowledge--because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you.

2 Tim. 1:6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God which is in you...

PRACTICE will fan this gift into flame.

John 14:26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

We depend on the Holy Spirit to teach us, enable us, and remind us of what to say. Neither Moses nor Paul claimed to be eloquent speakers and yet God told Moses in Ex. 4:12, "Now go; I will help you speak and teach you what to say."

God will help you deliver His story through you.

Ephesians 6:19-20 Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador...

Pray for words to be given for what the audience needs and that we will relay the gospel with all boldness.

Rev. 12:11 They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony...

Our testimony is a powerful tool against the enemy. We are to keep our focus on the Lord and who He wants to reach, not on our performance.

Is. 51:16 I have put my words in your mouth and covered you under the shadow of my wings...

We discourage comparison within the group by assuring women of their unique contribution.

I Cor. 3:3 says that if there is still jealousy and quarreling among you, than you are still worldly.

This group succeeds in restoring confidence to women as we assure them that they have an irreplaceable contribution to make. Additionally, we encourage women's unique approach to the public profession of their faith, finding their true voice and own style.

Don't ever give up or let your lack of ability disqualify you for delivering God's message.

I know this loving group works to help women gain confidence and grow into the destiny God has for them. Provide a place to fan into flame this gift of their testimony from God. We have new authors, teachers, missionaries to other countries, prison ministry, Jews for Jesus, actresses, and speakers coming from this group. I have been so energized by the improvement I have seen in a short amount of time in the women. This group serves to ignite and unite the hearts of women in the Body of Christ.

Blessings to you and your new speaking group.

Sincerely,

Holly Smith [holly@hiddenvoicesministry.org](mailto:holly@hiddenvoicesministry.org)

You are welcome to contact me for questions and details.

We used teaching tips from speaker sites, churches, ministries.

We took strength tests from [www.LaurieBethJones.com](http://www.LaurieBethJones.com), Strengthfinders 2.0