

Godtalk Talent Quests Event Manual



Talent Quest Programme Overview

Primary purpose:

Beyond the encouragement to encourage the use of creative and cultural arts in the communication of Christian message, the goal is to inspire intentionality in outreach equipping and effort, so youth can reach youth.

Secondary purpose:

A talent quest that encourages the use of creative and cultural arts in the communication of Christian messages in a manner appropriate for a school or other public space.

For local/regional youth ministries:

A positive inter-youth group event, under a national inter-church / non-denominational outreach-encouraging brand (Godtalk), that can facilitate a united effort between youth ministries from throughout the entire province.

Programme summary - Daytime:

Opening short worship and message. Auditions.

Programme summary - Evening:

Concert of a range of the auditions, awards to category winners and gospel message.

To achieve the primary purpose of the events it is therefore necessary to consider how to strategically include:

- Motivational teachings on
 - (1) the value of annual outreach equipping in every youth ministry and
 - (2) school groups and
 - (3) strategies related to all this
 - Targeting 2 to 4 minutes in length, these motivational and equipping thoughts can fit in between auditions while the stage is prepared for the next item.
- Testimonies of youth who have come to faith
- Testimonies of things youth have done as witnesses in their schools
- Visiting performances by notable groups from other provinces competitions
- Videos of notable winning items from other provinces who are doing the same
- Godtalk team members coming as guest speakers (e.g. Raki Wiringi or Dave Mann) to help with the creative training, motivation or gospel preaching.

Please send your expressions of interest in having a Godtalk Talent Quest in your region to team@godtalk.nz

Programming tips

Toward achieving the purpose of event:

As stated already, beyond the use of creative and cultural arts in communication, the goal of this event is to inspire intentionality in outreach focus and effort by youth, to reach youth.

- *This makes the one-point messages between auditions and evening items important, and also the short message that starts the day.*
- *This also brings guidance to the comments of MCs between different items.*

The point here is that Christian youth have a mission!

*** But are they equipped? (Godtalk.nz/equipping).*

*** Are youth leaders being trained for intentionality in their outreach leadership (Godtalk.nz/leadership).*

*** Are youth working together in their schools to encourage each other (Godtalk.nz/schools).*

Some details:

Registrations: Online. Create your own flyers and FB promotions, while including an email address for forms to be submitted to.

Registration cost: \$20 per group performance. \$10 per individual performance. Those attending during the day who are not performers - \$5pp.
(This money goes toward the costs of the event)

Attendance at the evening event: Free – so long as you are able to find a church venue suitable that you do not have to pay for. Otherwise, it is up to you how to manage this.

MCs: Their role is to keep the programme flowing, while making everyone else look good. A fun and encouraging environment, with audience engagement, is the goal.

Branding

Godtalk will supply a range of branded short video and audio clips that can be used throughout the programme to build momentum.

- For example, consider how a short video with music plays as the MC comes onto stage in shows like Britain's Got Talent.
- This is a 'programming device' – that is used to tell the audience to listen, because the MC is about to say something.
- Correctly used, it can also add some 'class' and momentum to a programme.

Regarding the strength of the brand we note

- Godtalk is non-denominational (neutral for local churches)
- Nationally connected
- Connects youth and youth leaders with quality FREE and NZ-MADE resources related to outreach
- ...and also to messages that encourage Christian witness to friends and in school-life.

I.e. It carries no threat to any church movement, while adding strength to what we are all here for. Local youth leaders own and run their regional event. The network enables growing inter-regional support to the events.

See Godtalk.nz for details.

Regarding selection and role of Judges

- We suggest at least 2 judges at a time, and no more than 4.
- Judges are approached by the local youth leaders who are organising the region's Godtalk Talent Quest. It's a voluntary role (as is every role here).
 - Note: This is an opportunity to honour and involve pastors and other local church leaders. This will help your united events to gain their support.
- Judges need selecting who not only understand something of the arts they are assessing, but also (2) the theology and correctness of the message, and (3) the appropriateness of the way it communicated, with a non-church audience in mind.
- Regarding the gospel itself, we recommend a viewing of Godtalk equipping video #4, which suggests the full gospel to contain ideas connected with the (i) creation, (ii) fall, (iii) Jesus and (iv) wider plan of restoration for planet earth. Also, it is not the gospel if a response is not encouraged, because the Christian message at its core is an invitation to restored relationship with God. Having a clear yet suitably concise theology of the gospel is important to this event.
- It is the judges' roles to ensure all performers feel appreciated and valued in the process of giving their constructive feedback to these performance. This maintains the fun dynamic of the programme, and the mana of the performers.

Remember: The point of this event is to train young people in how to communicate effectively as Christians in a secular or non-church society (while also motivating them for intentionality in their outreach equipping, and efforts at school).

Competition Categories

Notes:

- There are 8 categories for the daytime auditions
- Various items will be requested to join the evening programme
- Winners will be announced during the evening programme
- Regarding message: All items will be assessed on the basis of their success in communicating a Christian message in a manner suiting a public (non-church) audience, with the goal of encouraging increased openness to or understanding of faith in Christ.

1. Dance

- Length – up to 4mins
- Performance assessed on uniformity, creativity, message, costumes.
- Props to an absolute minimum please. Set up time is 2 minutes. Any lighting requests must be submitted with your entry form.
- Note: There may be very limited lighting option. We request an attitude of gratitude toward the volunteers – who will be doing their best.
- Backing tracks to be submitted on memory stick at 8am on the day or auditions – only unless submitted prior online. It is advisable to always have a copy on a memory stick as a back-up.

2. Drama

- Length – up to 4mins
- Performance assessed on creativity, delivery and message.
- Props to an absolute minimum please. Set up time is 2 minutes.
- Note: There may be very limited lighting option. We request an attitude of gratitude toward the volunteers – who will be doing their best.

3. Spoken word (orgional)

- Length – up to 4mins
- Performance assessed on creativity, delivery and message.
- If you would like a specific backing track, this is to be submitted on a memory stick at 8am on the day or auditions – only unless submitted prior online. It is advisable to always have a copy on a memory stick as a back-up.

4. Gospel message

- Length - up to 5mins
- Assessed on creativity, delivery and message.

5. Cultural performance

- Length – up to 4mins
- Performance assessed on creativity, delivery and message.
- Instruments: If used, the venue includes drum kit, bass amp, guitar amps and keyboard. You bring your own guitars / pedals / drum sticks. Note – event cannot guarantee supply of in-ear monitors, enabling use of tracks COMBINED with live instrumentation (i.e. We suggest you either use live instrumentation, or a backing track, not both combined).
- Backing tracks to be submitted on memory stick at 8am on the day or auditions – only unless submitted prior online. It is advisable to always have a copy on a memory stick as a back-up.
- Note: There may be very limited lighting option. We request an attitude of gratitude toward the volunteers – who will be doing their best.

6. Original song

- Length – up to 4mins
- Performance assessed on creativity, delivery and message.
- Instruments: If used, the venue includes drum kit, bass amp, guitar amps and keyboard. You bring your own guitars / pedals / drum sticks. Note – event cannot guarantee supply of in-ear monitors, enabling use of tracks COMBINED with live instrumentation (i.e. We suggest you either use live instrumentation, or a backing track, not both combined).
- Backing tracks to be submitted on memory stick at 8am on the day or auditions – only unless submitted prior online. It is advisable to always have a copy on a memory stick as a back-up.

7. Band item

- Length – up to 4mins
- Performance assessed on creativity, delivery and message.
- Instruments: If used, the venue includes drum kit, bass amp, guitar amps and keyboard. You bring your own guitars / pedals / drum sticks. Note – event cannot guarantee supply of in-ear monitors, enabling use of tracks COMBINED with live instrumentation (i.e. We suggest you either use live instrumentation, or a backing track, not both combined).
- Backing tracks to be submitted on memory stick at 8am on the day or auditions – only unless submitted prior online. It is advisable to always have a copy on a memory stick as a back-up.

8. Original Artwork

- Painting, drawing or designed graphic. To be displayed throughout the event. Arrival with artwork is 1 hour prior to Audition Day start. Removal is after end of evening programme.
- Assessed by attendees on the basis of creativity and message
- Method of attachment to wall / display will need discussing with Godtalk Talent Quest organisers PRIOR to the event.
- Please note there will be space limitations.
- HOST CHURCH: You will need to contact each entrant, to arrange suitable method of display.

9. Original Video (Not a remix of someone else's material)

- Length – up to 3mins
- Performance assessed on creativity, message and potential for engaging online audiences (YouTube, FB, Instagram, etc.).
- Video to be passed to submitted on memory stick at 8am on the day or auditions – only unless submitted PRIOR via youtube link.
- It is advisable to always have a copy on a memory stick as a back-up.

Daytime auditions

8am **Artwork, videos (memory stick) and backing tracks (memory stick) submitted (unless done prior online).**

8am onwards **Registrations**

9am **MC Welcomes people, and explains the day ahead, opens with karakia. (5mins)**

- Note to audience: Performers are expected to be ready at the side of stage 10 minutes prior to their audition. (There are no individualised green rooms available).
- Note to audience: The artwork on display will be judged by audiences. Please place ONE vote each at the desk provided.

Worship (10mins)

Introduce Godtalk staff – who can thank everyone, and reiterate promote the intent of the event. 5mins.

A message on creativity within communication (10mins)

9.30am **Auditions begin**

Depending on the number of entries, one or two audition rooms are used. The goal is a programme finished by 3 or 4pm, so people have time to go for dinner together prior to the evening event.

MAIN AUDITORIUM

MC: Welcomes, explains programme, opens with karakia.

- **Category 1. Dance auditions**
- **Category 2. Drama auditions**
- **Category 5. Cultural performance**
 - Note: Aim to Include approx. 6 one-point motivational thoughts related to outreach by youth leaders / Godtalk staff in the morning programme (2 per hour, 2 to 4mins long each, and no longer).
 - Depending on the number of entries, spoken words, Gospel messages and acoustic songs that use backing tracks (or that are acoustic) could be placed between items involving instrumentation and other set up, to enable a smoother flow of programme.

12.30pm **Lunch break**

1.30pm

- **Category 7. Band item**
- **Category 6. Original songs that utilise instruments**
 - Aim to include 4 to 6 one-point motivational thoughts about outreach from youth leaders / Godtalk staff in the afternoon programme (2 per hour, 2 to 4mins long each, and no longer).

3pm / 4pm **Closing Karakia. Tea break**

SECONDARY AUDITORIUM - if needed

(Starting when main auditorium has lunch break – to increase audiences)

12.30pm **MC: Welcomes, explains programme, opens with karakia.**

- **3. Spoken word (original)**
- **4. Gospel message (for public environment)**
- **6. Original songs that use backing track or are acoustic**
 - Include 2 to 4 one-point motivational thoughts about outreach from youth leaders / Godtalk staff in this afternoon programme (2 per hour, 2 to 4mins long each, and no longer).

2pm / 4pm **Closing Karakia. Tea break**

Evening Programme

Organisers select the items they feel would suit the programme, to create the best possible concert.

- These do not have to be limited to those who are the winners.
- You do not tell them who the winners are until during the programme.
- Winning items could go before or after the prize-giving. Do what you think will make the programme the most exciting.

For example

6.30pm Doors open

6.30pm A 'warm up' guy – with games, silly challenges, prizes etc..

7pm MC Welcomes. Open with karakia.

Introduce Godtalk staff – to thank everyone, and to promote the intent of the event.

- Cultural performance : _____
- Dance : _____
- Spoken word in gap : _____
- Original song (Band) : _____
 - o During set up – include a one-point motivational thoughts or testimony from a youth leader / Godtalk staff : _____
- Drama : _____
- Video in a gap : _____
- Band item : _____
- Gospel message : _____
- Original song : _____
 - o During set up – include a one-point motivational thoughts or testimony from a youth leader / Godtalk staff : _____
- Band item : _____
- Suitable item : _____
- Suitable item : _____
- PRIZEGIVING
 - o 3 finalists of each category on stage. Judges comment. Prize given. (Time limit per category and Judges comments – 90 seconds, because with 8 categories + applause this will quickly take 15 minutes)
 - o PRIZES: Organisers to consider.
- Suitable item : _____ (setting the stage for the message)
- **Guest speaker (Gospel message, with response call)**
- Final item: : _____
- **MC:**
 - o **Thank everyone (host, volunteers, entrants). Closing prayer. Promote next years' Godtalk Talent Quest.**

Prizes

Idea: A provincial Cup for each category

Winners get to keep the cup one year (bragging rights for a year).

Then their 'status' is challenged the next year.

This idea would build vision for an annual event and competition, which would aid momentum.

Media note:

Picture of all winners together might make a good pic and short article for local newspapers.

- It is APPROPRIATE that you would do this – because your event is about learning how to communicate in the public space. Getting an article in a local newspaper is an example of positive Christian profile and communication in the public space!

'Fundraising' for prizes

Organisers could seek funding for prizes from local businesses.

- Supermarkets are often generous.
- Consider also McDonalds, KFC etc... who might give little prizes suiting starter games etc.

Note: The sponsors then get THANKED during the programme.

- Including this detail in your programme so it is not forgotten

Putting their creativity to use

- Might some items suit a programme run by a student Christian group in a school lunchtime?
- Might there be a combined church event coming up at which items might be a welcomed idea –encouraging attendance?