

## Your Audience Wants to Help

At a recent service, I witnessed a small interaction that warrants commentary.

A pastor was facing an audience for a sunrise service and welcomed everyone with a short introductory reading then looked around and said, "Who has a bulletin?"

Five or six people in the front, offered up their copies and the group chuckled.

The pastor, not missing a beat, introduced the soloist and the service went smoothly on.

What teachable moment can we draw from this?

Your audience wants you to succeed. So much so that they will do almost anything to help you. And after they help, their engagement factor rises as well. They have a sense of ownership in the service because they have become a part of it.

To take this to an extreme, one facilitator admitted to me that he often would pause in a classroom setting acting as if he were trying to remember the next phrase in the line of his lecture and students would finish the sentence for him. It was his way of gauging participation and retention.

While this could become annoying, an occasional use of this tool can be effective.

A confident speaker can overcome almost anything except arrogance. Be willing to connect with your audience and see that your speeches become more and more effective.