

# *Susan Hoekstra* SPEAKING TOPICS



## **WHO'S CALLING? - *Do we take or ignore God's call?***

You heard the call. You believe the call was from God and very specific. Now what? You have a choice. You can reject the call, decide to answer it, or you can stall. In this presentation, we learn about some of our Old Testament friends – Moses, Jonah, Haggai and Jeremiah who got a call from God. Each of them responded differently. Watch what God does regardless of their responses.



## **SELFIES - *Is technology satisfying our need to be noticed***

It starts with a baby's cry. Toddlers seek it through temper tantrums, teenagers through rebellious overtones and 20 somethings through budding achievements. As we mature, we negate our need to be noticed so we don't appear selfish. Instead, we develop more sophisticated ways to communicate our needs, or do we? SELFIES discusses how technology is emphasizing self-promotion, leaving us feeling envious. Filled with "GOD NOTICED

ME "stories, we learn more about how God's mercy notices us even when we don't deserve it or don't think anyone cares.



## **WHY OH WHY? *Motives matter***

In our quest to be noticed, we may decide to do something for wrong reasons. WHY OH WHY discusses motives, the importance of being totally authentic before God and the intimacy with Him than can result.



## **RESPOND-ABILITY - *Responding instead of reacting***

As the youngest sibling and the only girl being raised by an emotional and abuse single mother in racial tense Detroit, I often felt like I suffered a bad childhood. Being treated unfairly felt commonplace. From being teased by three older brothers, offenses and knives pulled at the playground, to adultery, physical abuse, sexual abuse and embellishment. "I'm surprised by sin, why?" Respond-ability reviews the importance of understanding

that when sin happens, we don't have to respond to it with sin. With mercy as our anchor, we are reminded that vengeance is God's alone.



### **JUDGING – *How to overlook offenses***

In this day and age, we feel like we are walking on “eggshells” to avoid offending anyone. Could all this sensitivity be causing us to be even more offended? We discuss how to stop taking things personally and the difference between judging and observation. A new look at the Parable of the Prodigal Son gives us a model to emulate.



### **BE SOMEBODY TO SOMEBODY - *How to be sensitive to victims of sexual abuse***

With the onset of the #METOO movement and the victims of the Larry Nassar Tragedy, the topic of sexual abuse has escalated.

With over 300 women coming forward to tell their stories about one man, there are millions of other women who are silently experiencing the pain of sexual abuse. As time goes on, more and more women will feel brave enough to come forward with their

stories. The reality is that you might be on the receiving end of hearing it. Are you prepared to help? This topic includes my personal testimony of my own abuse, what it was like to be working on campus when this story came out and includes the song I wrote to honor the Larry Nassar victims.

### **TOPICS ON REQUEST**

Topics can be tailored to your event. Topics include personal testimonies, illustrations, and stories but are all focused on biblical principles and scripture, leading us to a deeper understanding of mercy. Life experiences include:

- Financial insecurity
- Sexual abuse
- Growing up without a father, who died at age 10
- Transitions – Moved 23 times and lived in 5 different states
- Adultery
- Divorce
- Remarriage
- Step Mom
- Mom to Adult Children
- Stories behind songwriting
- Life as a professional musician
- Life on a worship team
- Living without parents
- Mentoring

NOTE: Presentations are typically in the 45 minute time frame, although they can be tailored to shorter time frames. Topics are being added as requested.