

# How to Add More Humor to Your Presentations

By Nick Arnette

"I like the idea of using humor in my presentations, but I'm just not funny." I hear that all the time. Actually, if you're not funny, you may even have a better chance at getting some laughs.

You don't believe me? Well, first, let's discuss what makes people laugh in the first place. There are two ingredients in almost every joke. The first is the element of surprise. Something unexpected happens, out of the ordinary, and it catches people by surprise.

If you're not a funny kind of preacher, your element of surprise will be much greater. Even a little one liner or a joke you found online will go a long way.

So where do I find these jokes and one liners you ask? Well, you can find them in joke books, or you can do an internet search and just type in what you're searching for, such as jokes about bosses, light bulb jokes, knock knock jokes, clean jokes, salesman jokes, silly jokes, riddles, etc. The possibilities are almost endless.

The point is this, if you're not particularly funny, that's not a problem. **Let other things be funny for you.**

Visual humor is the easiest to communicate. No doubt you get a lot of funny visual emails. Keep a file on your computer of all of them, even categorize them. I guarantee you'll find opportunities to use them once in a while. Again, a simple search using your favorite Internet browser will do the trick. Just do a search for "funny pictures, clean funny pictures, funny signs, funny animal photos, etc. If you do an "images" search, you'll find plenty. Lately, I've been finding a lot of funny photos on Facebook by looking at my friend's wall posts.

Want to use some movie clips to make a point? Go to Amazon.com and buy Bryan Belknap's book, *Group's Blockbuster Movie Illustrations: Over 160 Clips for Your Ministry!*. Check out his other books while you're at it. While these videos are geared towards a church audience, there are plenty of illustrations that are applicable to business audiences. Be careful with videos though, because you'll be running into usage issues and you're probably going to have to pay some royalties or get a release. If you're going to use movie clips at your church, keep it legal by going to [www.cvli.org](http://www.cvli.org) to get a church video license. It's not expensive and well worth it.

Here's second thing in almost all jokes that causes people to laugh. It begins with a "C". Give up? Conflict. Yes, conflict. We identify with a problem, and that's why we laugh about it. Think about all the things in your life that went wrong, but now you can laugh about them. Be sure and use those kinds of stories on the platform. People want to know you're not perfect and you can identify with their struggles.

Studies show humor is one of the most effective ways to get people to learn and/or be receptive to learning. A little humor goes a long way to making you a very effective communicator!

Nick Arnette, *The Feel Good Funny Guy* is the author of *Me, We and Glee: How to have a great attitude, work as a team and keep your sense of humor*, and also, *The Book of Dude*. Arnette is a popular keynote speaker at business meetings throughout the United States and Canada. You can contact Nick Arnette at [www.NickArnette.com](http://www.NickArnette.com), email: [nick@nickarnette.com](mailto:nick@nickarnette.com)

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