

## **Sermon Template**

**First and foremost, ask for God's guidance in the preparation process, and gather Scriptures that speak to that need**

### **ANALYZING THE TEXT**

1. Pray.
2. Track the verbs and parse them.
3. Look for key words needing definition.
4. Look for repetition of phrases and words.
5. Look for seams in the text which will inform the number of points and the nature of the sermon outline.
6. Note the near and far context.
7. Search for helpful and supporting Scripture.
8. Write out any and all observations and applications you see in the text.
9. Examine your study aids and write out any helpful insights (note the source for future reference when appropriate).
10. Look for theological truth and avenues the text logically supports.
11. Merge your exegesis into the outline structure of your sermon.

### **TITLE OF THE SERMON**

1. Pray
2. Make it interesting, an "attention grabber."
3. Relate it, if possible, to the Central Proposition of the Text (CPT) and the Central Proposition of the Sermon (CPS).
4. Create a title which can be fed by the main points of your sermon.
5. Make it relevant.
6. Put it in the form of an imperative (absolutely necessary or required; unavoidable ) (?)

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Pray.
2. Remember: this is the most important part of the sermon.
3. Get the audience's attention, grab their interest, show them why they will want to hear what you have to say.
4. Remember the value of a great illustration, pointed and specific information, a compelling question.
5. Keep it between 3-5 minutes.
6. Make a smooth and logical transition to the text/sermon outline.
7. Consider scripting your introduction word for word.
8. Do not waste valuable time with unnecessary/useless gab.

## **OUTLINING THE SERMON**

1. Pray.
2. Let your exegesis drive and determine the outline.
3. Have as many major points as the text naturally demands (locate the seams).
4. Make sure major points and subpoints arise clearly and naturally out of the text. Be able to see your outline in the text.
5. State your points in the present tense and complete sentences. Be clear, concise and true to the text.
6. Make your points the application of the message. (Let them inform, instruct and inspire your people as to what they should do.)
7. Make sure your major points connect with the sermon title and the CPT and CPS.
8. Make sure your subpoints connect with the major point they support.
9. Do not overload your people with more than they can intellectually digest! (Teaching outlines are a great idea.)
10. Cover and fill the skeleton of your outline with the meat and marrow of the exegesis.
11. Write out your sermon merging all aspects of your preparation with a view of exalting our Lord and edifying your potential congregation here and now.
12. Practice reading your text repeatedly and out loud. Remember: it is a sin to read God's Word poorly.

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Pray.
2. Remember: this is the second most important part of the sermon.
3. Build toward your conclusion and plan a safe, smooth and timely landing.
4. Do not have multiple conclusions.
5. Briefly summarize the CPS and your major points.
6. Remember the value of a powerful and memorable story.
7. Keep it between 3-5 minutes.
8. Highlight points of application.

Plan a smooth, relevant and clear transition into the invitation. **MAKE THE TURN TO THE GOSPEL!!!**

## **THE INVITATION**

1. Pray (in your preparation as you think about how to give the invitation).
2. Be clear in what you want your people to do.
3. Clearly, concisely and accurately share the gospel.
4. With conviction and expectation, but not coercion or manipulation, invite and challenge your people to respond.
5. Keep it 3-4 minutes maximum as to the explanation.
6. Pray
7. Transition smoothly and worshipfully into the actual invitation, allowing it to continue as you feel led of the Holy Spirit (one verse is too short and ten verses is usually [not always] too long).

- Most time there will be no invitation.
- Does not mean to never to it.
- It is good to have the congregation to get involve.
- Follow the instruction if you are going to do it.
- Always be ready for question that will be out of your sermon.

### **Zing up your sermon**

1. Be your own editor; Go through every segment and ask yourself whether it adds to what you're writing or saying or whether it doesn't.
2. There's the USA Today approach; Pretend you're speaking to USA Today readers, and that will help you put concepts in the simplest terms possible to make it understandable.
3. Apply analogies, simple analogies, they create visual impressions that are catchy and memorable
4. Next, ad copy approach; ads are written to address people's wants and needs. So think about using words that appeal to our once using words that stress the benefits of a product or service, or it's like energy efficient, leak proof, long lasting.
5. Finally tweeted; if you only had 140 characters to make your words matter, how would you say it? Tweeting is a great exercise for trimming the fat.

### **Dress for the Occasion**

Seven pieces of our wardrobe. The first five are the things that we were that defensive, and the last two are offensive.

1. Belt of Truth
2. Breastplate of Righteousness
3. Shoes Gospel of Peace
4. Shield of Faith
5. Helmet of Salvation
6. Sword of the Spirit
7. Praying At All Times

Think about who you are talking to, elderly, middle age, young adults, teenagers ...

1. A good sermon engages the biblical text
2. A good sermon proclaims the gospel
3. A good sermon connects god's word to the lives of god's people
4. A good sermon is well organized and easy to understand
5. A good sermon engages the imaginations of the hearers
6. A good sermon is delivered well
7. A good sermon orients hearers to life in god's world

**Step 1: Studying the Text - The Flesh of the Passage**

This is finding the meaning of the text. It involves the groundwork for serious study in accurately "seeing" and "seeking" what the Bible desires to communicate to all people.

**Step 2: Structuring the Text - The Skeleton of the Passage**

Understand how the biblical author put the text together. Emphasize how he said it.

**Step 3: The Central Proposition of the Text (CPT) - The Heart of the Passage**

Discover the dominant teaching of the text under two headings:

**The Theme:** What is the author talking about?

**The Thrust:** What is the author saying about what he is talking about?

Everything in the text is woven around the single major theme.

**Step 4: The Purpose of the Sermon - The Brain of the Sermon**

Make expository preaching relevant to the audience. The purpose is the brain of the sermon, the key link from text to sermon.

**Step 5: The Central Proposition of the Sermon (CPS) - The Heart of the Sermon**

Just as the text has a singular theme/thrust, your sermon must have a singular theme/thrust.

The central proposition of your sermon will contain the twin "theme and thrust" emphasis.

Here the biblical proposition (step 3) is channeled through the purpose (step 4) and contemporized to be understood and obeyed by the audience.

**Step 6: Structuring the Sermon - The Skeleton of the Sermon** Consider the basic ways of developing sermon unity, order, and progress.

**Step 7: Preaching the Sermon - The Flesh of the Sermon**

Increase the impact of your sermon through an attention grabbing introduction, illustrations, proper word usage, coherent conclusion, compelling invitation, and you physical delivery.

## **I. STUDY THE BOOK AS A WHOLE.**

1. Consider the question of date, authorship, recipients, and purpose (general matters of introduction.)
2. Develop an outline of the entire book (study Bibles and commentaries will be helpful).
3. Examine the relationship of the passage under consideration to the book as a whole.

## **II. ESTABLISH THE BEST TEXTUAL BASE POSSIBLE**

1. Use the original language if you can.
2. Compare the various versions and translations.

## **III. INVESTIGATE THE TEXT LINGUISTICALLY (E.G. WORD BY WORD).**

1. Make a lexical (definitional) study of crucial words.
2. Research the passage for key words, phrases, and ideas.
3. Track the verbs!

## **IV. EXAMINE THE FORM OR FORMS OF THE MATERIAL IN THE PASSAGE.**

1. What is the literary type (history, poetry, prophetic, apocalyptic)?
2. Is there any indication of the life situation from which the material came?

## **V. ANALYZE THE STRUCTURE OF THE PASSAGE.**

1. Determine if the material constitutes a literary unity.
2. Is there a logical sequence of ideas present?
3. Isolate the basic themes or emphases.
  4. Outline the passage you are studying. Use the outline as the framework for your teaching.

## **Types of Genres in Scripture**

1. History: Genesis, Joshua, Judges, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Acts
2. Letters: Paul (13), John (3), Peter (2), James, Hebrews, Jude, Revelation 2-3
3. Poetry: Psalms, Song of Songs, much of prophetic material
4. Wisdom: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job, some Psalms, James
5. Apocalyptic: Revelation, Daniel 7-12, Zechariah, parts of Ezekiel, Mark 13
6. Legal: parts of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
7. Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
8. Parables: Four Gospels, parable of Nathan to David (2 Samuel 12:1-4)(Sub-categories within the Gospels, unique characteristic)

## 1. **Narrative**

This includes books of the Bible or sections of books which simply tell the story of what happened. Exodus is an expansive, epic narrative. Ruth focuses on the story of one family. Acts tells the spectacular events of the first generation of Christians, as they were led and inspired by the Holy Spirit. Narrative tells us what happened, according to the purposes of the author. Sometimes there are spiritual lessons from events, and sometimes we are just gaining the context of the history of God's people.

## 2. **Poetry**

This is all of Psalms and sections of other books. The power of poetry comes through the use of vivid figurative language ("As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God." Psalm 42:1.) Also, ideas are repeated, sometimes with the same words, other times with synonyms (synonymous parallelism). The Psalms and other poetic sections of the Bible communicate ideas, but they especially express emotion. They show life in its fullness.

## 3. **Wisdom**

Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes are collections of wise sayings meant to shape the moral and ethical lives of their readers. They cover many practical topics. The book of James in the New Testament in many ways is like Proverbs in the Old Testament.

## 4. **Prophecy**

The four major prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel) and the 12 minor prophets (Hosea through Malachi) are all God's word to his covenant people, warning them and bolstering them during periods of pronounced spiritual and national danger. They are mostly oracles, later written down. We gain spiritual lessons from them about the disposition of God (e.g., disappointed, indignant, sorrowful, tender, caring), and the condition of the people addressed (e.g., frightened, disobedient, humbled, arrogant). We must read Old Testament prophetic books as God's challenge to the original audiences, and then we apply the lessons to our day.

## 5. **Gospels** - Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

The Gospels are proclamation. The people who wrote them were true believers relating first-hand accounts about the life and teachings of Jesus. And so we read the genre of Gospel as faith documents, announcing a world-changing event centered in the person of Jesus.

## 6. **Letters also known as Epistles**

The letters of the New Testament were communications to specific individuals or groups for specific and varied purposes. The apostle Paul meant Romans to be an overarching description of Christian faith, whereas 1 Corinthians was occasioned by problems, including a list of questions they had for Paul ("now concerning the matters you wrote about," 1 Cor. 7:1), and the letters to Timothy were to encourage and guide a younger church leader in a challenging spot. Epistles are "occasioned" texts, and so we need to get at the circumstances that led to them being written.

## 7. **Apocalypse**

The book of Revelation and parts of the book of Daniel are revelations. Like other prophecies, they proclaim urgent messages to their original audiences, in particular, warning and comfort. To a greater degree than other prophetic books, they employ much symbolic language, which can be understood by studying preceding similar expressions in Scripture.