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Train & Multiply™

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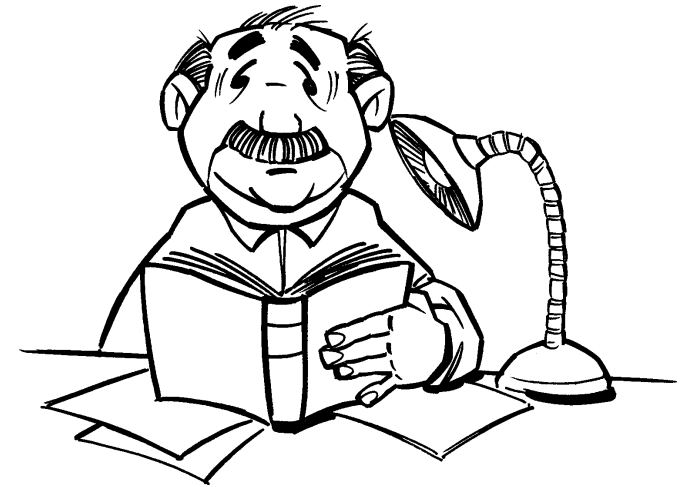
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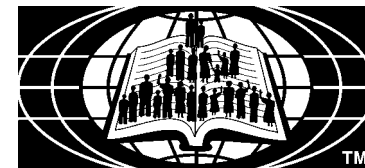
Help With Preaching



Pastoral Leader Training Booklet

43

Train & Multiply™



T&M™

Ask for the Lord's help, so that this study will enable you to preach in a way that builds up your church.

The purpose of this study is to help you to preach and apply God's Word in your church. To reach this goal, follow these steps:

CHOOSE RELEVANT SERMON TOPICS

We choose sermon topics by observing the needs of our congregation and of the society we live in, and by prayerfully examining God's Word.

PRAY

To keep in close contact with God, we pray and ask His guidance. We want to preach the message He gives us. We trust that God will reveal this to us, as we read the Bible, or meditate about the congregation's needs.



5. The purpose of the Introduction to the message is:
- ☐ to explain everything.
 - ☐ to stimulate the interest of the listeners regarding the message.

Confirmation: the introduction is to awaken interest.

6. The purpose of the Conclusion of the message is to:
- ☐ explain everything all over again.
 - ☐ to encourage people to apply the teaching in their own lives.

Confirmation: It encourages the listeners to apply the important truths of the message.

PRACTICAL WORK

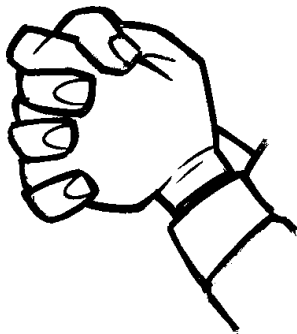
- Prepare an outline of a message you will preach. Then, show the message to your trainer. Include an introduction, points (illustrated and applied), and a practical conclusion.

3. The Points should be:
- ☐ examples of the theme.
 - ☐ the outstanding truths of the text which deal with the theme.

Confirmation: the points of a good outline deal with the most important truths of the passage.

4. Which would be the best example of how grace means “unmerited favor?”
- ☐ Noah’s Ark.
 - ☐ The Prodigal Son (who was forgiven when he repented).

Confirmation: we receive God’s forgiveness and unmerited blessing through our faith (not by good works); it is by pure grace.



BE ALERT TO THE CONGREGATION’S NEEDS

Some pastors preach without results. They do not apply the Word to their people. We must get to know the members of our congregation, so we can know their needs.



Which is the better way to care for our congregation?

- ☐ By visiting them and talking with them.
- ☐ By just preaching to them.

We get to know and talk to our flock, in order to:

- ☐ apply the Bible’s teaching to their needs.
- ☐ criticize their errors.

Before preparing a sermon, think about the members of your congregation:

- What advice do they need?
- What are their other needs?
- What questions do they ask?
- How can I help them to become more loving?
- What aspects of their lives need to be yielded more to Christ?
- How can I help them pray with more faith?
- How can I help them be more sure of their salvation?
- With which of Christ's commands do they need help?
- What Bible teaching or ministry do they need to understand better?
- How can I help them be more active in Christian service, in the community?

SUMMARY

1. To choose the Theme of the message:

- ☐ we get to know people, and their situation.
- ☐ we pray, seeking the Lord's guidance.
- ☐ we examine God's Word.
- ☐ all these.

Confirmation: we do all these, to choose the theme.

2. As for the Bible Text, we generally teach the Word best with:

- ☐ the explanation and application of a single passage.
- ☐ an explanation of several texts about the theme.

Confirmation: it may bore people and even confuse them, if we comment on too many texts related to the same theme.

It normally is better to teach on several aspects of the same theme, based on one passage (or at most two), that clarify the subject.

PREPARE THE CONCLUSION

(End of the Message)

The conclusion leaves people encouraged and motivated to do God's will. Example:

"Now we know God has blessed us with His abundant grace, let's leave doubt aside. Let's go on even firmer in our faith and hope. Let's show others that His grace has changed us. We'll pray in silence for a few moments, thanking God, each of us, for His grace. Tell the Lord how you will respond to Him, by the grace at work in your life. Tell the Lord now... Let us pray."

Notes:

The preacher, who has a pastor's heart, watches over his flock carefully; he knows their problems, their deepest desires, their gifts and their commitment to the Lord.

Write down three of your congregation's needs:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

STUDY THE BIBLE

If we deal only with superficial and general needs our preaching becomes shallow. Sometimes we do not recognize the deeper needs, nor what is causing stagnation in the church. This is why prayer and Bible study are important, so that the Lord can reveal to us what the congregation really needs.



CHOOSE THE TEXT

(Bible Passage)

Find a text that deals with the congregation's needs.

From time to time, we teach a whole book from the Bible. Choose a book that will edify your people at their current level of spiritual growth. If it is a long book, prepare several messages.

Have you preached a series of messages on some Bible book?

Vary your preaching. To preach from only one book over a long period of time, might bore people. It is better to include other messages in between those of the series.

It is usually best to base a message on one Bible passage. This normally gives better results than basing your message on several verses from different books. If you do not know a suitable text for your purpose, look in a Bible dictionary, a concordance, or in your books. Your Instructor could also suggest a text.

death gives us salvation, and opens the way; His teaching guides us on the way, and His spirit lives in our hearts. Jesus waits for us at our destination (Heaven), with a place prepared for us.

Write down another example that illustrates how Jesus is "the Truth."

PREPARE THE INTRODUCTION

(Beginning)

The introduction emphasizes the importance and purpose of the theme. For example, a message on grace could begin: "Have you ever doubted God's love for you? Well you will be relieved when you understand God's grace. We learn about the infinite depths of God's grace in Ephesians 2."



WE CLARIFY POINTS WITH:

- Bible stories
- illustrations
- exhortations
- poetry
- examples
- drawings
- questions
- etc.

The following example illustrates how Jesus is our “way.” A path or way helps us to get to our destination; it takes us there. To go north, we do not take a road south! Jesus is the only way to God. His

As you pray and study the Word, let God reveal your congregation’s current need or opportunity to serve others.

What Bible passage deals with this need or opportunity to serve?

IDENTIFY THE IMPORTANT POINTS OF THE TEXT

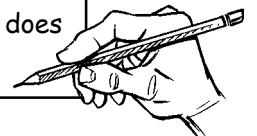
Study the details of the text on which you will preach.

What truths do you find that will be important for your people? What other interesting things does God teach us from the text?

Example:

John 3:16

1. God loves us
2. He gave His Son for us.
3. We must believe in Him.
4. He gives us eternal life, and does not condemn...



Write down some important things.

Romans 5:12 says: *“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death came to all men, because all sinned...”*

You can notice many points. But which are the most important for alerting people to their deepest spiritual need? Read it again.

We could emphasize:

- Sin entered through Adam.
- Sin brought death.
- Sin and death affect everyone.

From this verse, make an outline of the two, three or four “points” you identify on this subject.

PREPARE THE PRESENTATION OF THE THEME

(Explanations, Illustrations and Applications)

Develop, or clarify each point of your outline, in three ways:

- Explain it well.
- Illustrate it (with examples from the Bible or daily life, or comparisons like the Lord Jesus’ parables.)
- Apply it (to the lives of those present.)

Now, write an outline of John 14:6.

“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”

What is the theme (main message) of this text?

Read Ephesians 2:8-10. What aspects of salvation are to be seen?

These points can be identified:

- Salvation is offered by the grace of God (verse 8).
- Salvation is received by faith (verse 8).
- Salvation is not through our works (verse 9).
- Good works are a necessary effect of our salvation (verse 10).

The following outlines show how to identify the principal truths of a text. (An outline is an abbreviation of the passage; the theme and the most important points.)

REPENTANCE—Luke 19:1-10

- Zaccheus sought Christ (verses 1-4).
- Zaccheus came to know Christ (verses 5-7).
- Zaccheus responded to Christ and repented (verses 8-10).

THE LORD'S SUPPER—1 Corinthians 11:23-26

- It is a command of Christ (verse 23-24).
- We do it in memory of Him (verse 24).
- It affirms the New Covenant (verse 25).



RESTORATION OF THE LOST—Luke 15:11-32

- The son went astray by his own choice (verses 11-13).
- The son realized his lost condition (verses 14-17).
- The son had a change of heart (verses 18-19).
- The son was reconciled (verses 20-24).

PRAYER—Matthew 6:9-13

The Lord's Prayer teaches us the following aspects of prayer:

- Communion with God (our Father in heaven).
- Adoration (hallowed be your Name).
- Plea for the extension of God's Kingdom (your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven).
- Plea for urgent needs (give us today our daily bread).
- Confession (forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors).
- Plea for spiritual victory (and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one).
- Praise (for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever Amen!)

These are examples; you will have identified other important points.