



How To Share A Devotional Or A Sermon

HOW TO PREPARE AND TEACH A BIBLE STUDY

SESSION 6

Study: the goal of accurate interpretation – God’s truth

- **Scan The Text** (pray, read, observe, question)
- **Sort The Content** (point, pattern, parallel, partition, principle)
- **Survey The Context** (literary, historical, cultural, geographical, theological)
- **Scrutinize The Communication** (significant words, repeated words, figures of speech, word use, word meanings, word origins)
- **Spot The Colloquialisms** (figures of speech, types, parables)

Study: the goal of accurate interpretation – God's truth

- **Scope What's Coming** (prophecy)
- **Solve The Conflicts** (alleged contradictions, history, science)
- **Specify With Certainty** (authority of Scripture, exegesis)
- **Supplement Through Cross-Referencing** (compare passages, concepts, words)
- **Submit To The Commands** (principles, application)



Do the work of in the text.

- **Pray**
- **Let the Word speak to you.**
- **Find the big idea.**

John MacArthur

- “Sit with the text. Sit leaning forward and backwards. The science happens in the forward position. The art happens in the backward position.”

(“How Does John MacArthur Build His Sermons?”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPQj-HhADV8>, 20 minutes)

Steve Lawson

- “All expositors must be serious students of God’s Word, willing to devote themselves to the relentless pursuit of deepening and expanding their knowledge of biblical truth. The day the preacher stops studying God’s Word, whether he realizes it or not, is the day he begins losing spiritual passion and vitality in his preaching.”

(Famine In The Land: A Passionate Call For Expository Preaching, Moody, 2003, p. 88)

Review

- **Study:** the goal of accurate interpretation – God's truth
- **Evaluate:** Know the text, yourself, your class/group
- **Prepare:** Book, Look, Took, Hook
- **Delivery:** Hook (anticipation), Book (investigation), Look (comprehension), Took (application)

The Different Types Of Sermons

- Expository
- Topical
- Textual

Expository

- **2 Timothy 4:2** Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

Aspects of an Expository Sermon

- The passage governs the sermon
- The expositor communicates a concept
- The concept comes from the text – *the idea is derived from and transmitted through a historical, grammatical, and literary study of a passage in its context*
- The concept is applied to the expositor
- The concept is applied to the hearers

Haddon Robinson, *Biblical Preaching*, Baker, 1980, pp. 20-27

Kinds Of Exposition (Steve Lawson)

- Sequential – verse by verse,
 - it follows how God wrote the Bible
 - it provides balance (prevents drift towards theological hobby horses)
 - it saves time – know what to preach next
 - it models biblical thinking – context,, sequence of thought, build argument
- Sectional – e.g. Mt 5-7; Gen 1-11
- Doctrinal – topical, thematic

Kinds Of Exposition (Steve Lawson)

- Biographical
- Individual
- Seasonal (Christmas, Easter)
- Funeral
- Systematic Theology

The Different Types Of Sermons

- Expository
- **Topical**
- Textual

Title: “The Believer’s Hope”

Topic: Characteristics of the believer’s hope

- Living Hope (1 Pt 1:3)
- Saving Hope (1 Th 5:8)
- Sure Hope (Heb 6:19)
- Good Hope (2 Th 2:16)
- Unseen Hope (Rom 8:24)
- Blessed Hope (Titus 2:3)
- Eternal Hope (Titus 3:7)

(James Braga, *How To Prepare Bible Messages*, Multnomah Press, 1981, p. 21)



The Different Types Of Sermons

- Expository
- Topical
- **Textual**



The Process

- Read
- Explain
- Apply

Jesus Christ (Matthew 5)

- **Read** - ²¹ “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’
- **Explain** - ²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.
- **Apply** - ²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison.

The Apostle Paul

- **1 Timothy 4:13** Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.
- **Read** – “public reading of Scripture”
- **Explain** – “to teaching”
- **Apply** – “to exhortation”

The Apostle Peter (Acts 2:16-40)

- **Read** – cites Joel 2:28-32 (16-21)
- **Explain** – Jesus' incarnation (22a), ministry (22b), crucifixion (23), resurrection (24-32), ascension (33-36)
- **Apply** – repent and believe (37-38), forgiveness of sins (38), saved from wickedness (40)

Moses (Deuteronomy 1, 4, 5)

- **Deuteronomy 5:1** And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them, “Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the rules that I speak in your hearing today, and you shall learn them and be careful to do them.
- **Read**
 - 4:1 listen to the statutes
- **Explain**
 - 1:5 Moses explains
 - 4:1 “that I am teaching you”
- **Apply**
 - 4:14 “do them”

Ezra (Ezra 7:10; Neh 8:8)

- **Ezra 7:10** For Ezra had set his heart to **study** the Law of the Lord, and to **do** it and to **teach** his statutes and rules in Israel.
- **Nehemiah 8:8** They **read** from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they **gave the sense**, so that the people **understood** the reading.

The Outline

Passage Outline	Truth Outline	Sermon Outline
"happened"	"happens"	"happening"
What happened in time past	Timeless truth outline	"contemporary way to your specific audience." (p. 29)
"The outline the original author might have used as he wrote to his original readers" (p. 28)	"the historical statements of the passage outline are turned into timeless statements that convey the eternal truths being revealed through the biblical material" (p. 28)	"how the truth of the biblical passage will be communicated in a contemporary way to your specific audience." (p. 29)
"phrasing of this outline reflects the particulars of the biblical world – names, places, events, and cultural practices" (p. 28)	"The concepts are phrased more generally, more universally, so as to span time." (p. 28)	"It proclaims the eternal truths, shows how these truths were drawn from the details of the texts – relates these truths to concrete situations in the life of the contemporary listener."
Historical	Theological	Practical

(From Donald R. Sunukjian, *Invitation To Biblical Preaching*, Kregel, 2007, pp. 27ff)

The Title

- The title should reflect the main point of the passage.
- The title should be interesting to the listener. It should arouse interest and attention.
- The title is more impactful when it is brief.
- The title could be contemporary but be appropriate to the dignity of God's Word.

The Introduction

- The introduction should draw interest to the topic.
- The introduction should connect the hearer to the text.
- The introduction should command attention.
- The introduction sets the biblical stage.
- The introduction can create a need, controversy or problem that will be solved by the text.
- The introduction must be relatable to the audience.

The Proposition

- The proposition is the single main thought or theme that the passage conveys.
- The proposition is the foundation for the main points of the sermon.
- The proposition sets the direction for the sermon.
- The proposition directs our response to the text.

The Proposition

- The proposition is formed by a comprehension of the text, identification of themes and key words.
- The proposition is the main tree trunk that the branches of the sermon points connect to.
- The proposition can be communicated as a principle.
- The proposition should be concise, clear, specific and simple.

The Body Of The Sermon

- Main points are connected to the proposition
- Main points bring clarity to the concept
- Main points break down the meals to appropriate portions (portions of food groups: meat, vegetables, fruits, grains)

The Body Of The Sermon

- Sub points break down the portions to bite-size pieces (cut the steak, chop the vegetable)
- Sub points should be consistent and parallel in structure to each other
- Main points should progress towards the conclusion (which is the proposition)

The Body Of The Sermon

- The number of main points is determined by the text (don't force 2 or 5 points into a familiar 3 point sermon).
- Main points are natural divisions in the text (change in narrative, new topic in argument)
- Main points are transitioned intentionally and clearly. (music verses can be transitioned with a brief repetition of the bass pattern or a bridge)

The Illustrations

- Illustrations connects the listener to the application of the text with tangible and familiar examples.
- Illustrations makes the sermons interesting.
- Illustrations brings clarity to the point of the sermon.
- Illustrations help makes the truth believable.
- Illustrations brings experience to a concept.

The Illustrations

- Illustrations bring color to the black and white lines of the sermon divisions.
- Illustrations should be simple, interesting and believable.
- Illustrations from history should be accurate and sourced.
- Illustrations from books, websites or from others should be appropriately credited.
- Illustrations should not detract from or dominate over the text or sermon body.

Illustrations Can Be Sourced From:

- Biblical stories
- Biblical characters
- Personal experiences
- Variety of reading
- Quotations
- Historical situations
- Relevant news
- Appropriate memes
- Imagination

The Application

- Application makes the sermon practical.
- Application connects the listener to the action required by the text.
- Application must be rooted from Scripture, not tradition, customs or non-Christian religion.
- Application moves the listener and preacher a step-closer to Christ-likeness.

The Application

- Application clears the hurdle of our sin nature, flesh, or human nature.
- Application makes timeless principles presently implemented.
- Application is empowered by the Spirit of God to act upon the Word of God
- Application for the unsaved is to respond to the Gospel. They must be saved before they can be sanctified.

The Conclusion

- Donald Sunukjian: “The conclusion has two purposes: to summarize and to exhort – that is, to give a sense of unity and wholeness to the message, and to urge our listeners to make its truth a part of their lives.” (*An Invitation To Biblical Preaching*, Kregel, 2007, p. 242)
- James Braga: “The conclusion is the climax of the whole sermon in which the preacher’s one constant aim reaches its goal in the form of a forceful impression.” (p. 229)

The Conclusion

- Haddon Robinson: “As an experienced pilot knows that landing an airplane demands special concentration, so an able preacher understands that conclusions require thoughtful preparation. Like the pilot a skilled preacher should never have uncertainty about where his sermon will land.” (p. 167)

The Conclusion

- The conclusion is a summary of the sermon that re-expresses the proposition.
- The conclusion may contain a summary, an illustration, a question, a quote, a prayer, specific directions, and visualization. (Robinson, pp. 168-171)
- The conclusion is not an introduction of new material and topics that are unrelated to the main and sup points.

The Conclusion

- The conclusion must be the strong finish that convinces the listener of the proposition, main points and application.
- The conclusion, if poorly delivered, leaves the sermon unconvincing.
- The conclusion recapitulates and reinforces the main point
- The conclusion makes an appeal for action.

Steve Lawson

- “Appeal to Believers”
 - Know Something (review, restate, reinforce truths)
 - Feel Something (comfort the afflicted, afflict the comfortable)
 - Do Something (imperative verbs, stated action, interrogative questions)
- “Appeal to Unbelievers”
 - Know Something (holiness of God, sinfulness of man, provision of Christ, terms of acceptance)
 - Feel Something (conviction of sin, hope in Christ, urgency of now)
 - Do Something (repentance, faith)



The Delivery

The Sermon – Organized in an understandable way

- Introduction
- Proposition – Central Theme
- Main Points
- Subordinate Points
- Sequential Pattern
- Transitions
- Conclusion

The Preacher/Teacher

- Speak clearly and loudly.
- Pay attention to your pace.
- Eye communication.
- Don't be stiff, but don't be distracting with your motions.
- Emphasize take home points with stronger voice inflection, emphasized words and dramatic timing/pauses.
- Appropriate attitude

The Goal

- Deepen our love for God
- Target conformity to the Person of Christ
- Challenge the will towards obedience to God's Word
- Inspire hope in Christ's salvation and God's sovereignty

The Goal

- Donald R. Sunukjian: “Preach accurately, clearly, relevantly, and energetically. And when you are finished, each heart will whisper, ‘Look at what God has said to us!’”

(Invitation To Biblical Preaching, Kregel, 2007, p. 303)

The Evaluation

- Was the point made clearly?
- Was it accurate to the passage?
- Was it theologically accurate?
- Were the points distinct?
- Was the introduction compelling?
- Was the conclusion applicable?
- Was the language and illustrations appropriate to the audience?
- Did the sermon flow clearly?
- Was the length appropriate?

The Holy Spirit

- **John 14:26** But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.
- **John 16:13a** However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth
- **Acts 4:7-8** ⁷ And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders,

Alistair Begg

- **Think yourself empty.** After praying, he writes everything down – notes, quotes, anecdotes, including the structure of the text.
- **Read yourself full.** Read on the topic of the Scripture. Read commentaries.
- **Write yourself clear.** Writing is the key to clarity and fluidity.
- **Pray yourself hot.**
- **Be yourself and forget yourself in the delivery.**

(“How does Alistair Begg prepare for his sermons/teachings?,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXj6MLQ8138>, 5 minutes)