

# PREACHING PROJECT ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

## **STEP ONE:**

Read and re-read “**A NON-COMPREHENSIVE STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO SERMON PREPARATION**” (attachment #4). Do not prepare your sermon the way you have always done it before (if you ever have). Instead, use this style of sermon preparation as a starting point to develop your own habits and style. **Do your inductive study and the 98-minute meditation AHEAD OF TIME**, not the night before, because your sermon will grow to be more powerful the more time you allow for it.

For the purposes of this sermon, work harder on **the content** than the “presentation” (though people will still give you feedback on both). Presentation is important but easy to fix. Having something worthwhile to communicate takes more practice and work.

## THE BASIC COMPONENTS OF A SERMON

1. **Information:** Use a variety of the skills you have learned in order to do a good Bible study, such as, doing an inductive study, reading a commentary, looking at the notes in a study Bible, doing word studies, and figuring out the context to know the “then and there” and then bring it into the “here and now.” **This is the beginning of “WHAT” you will preach.** As you work through steps two and three, the content for your sermon will begin to grow.
2. **Communication:** How will you communicate this really cool revelation? Will you start by reading the Bible or telling a story, or telling us why this sermon is in your heart? It is all up to you. Will you use themes from various scriptures for your main points or are you taking us through a particular story and taking us inside of it? What ever you do, **I do expect that you will have clear obvious points, and that you will clearly transition from one point to another. I also expect an excellent summary of your message to be toward the end of your sermon.** (Doing this causes you to experience your sermon as a whole, and you will intuitively know whether or not it makes sense and is powerful.)
3. **Transformation:** Creative use of language. Why are you preaching this now, and what are we supposed to do with this information and impartation?
4. **Presentation:** These are the “practicals”—Are you speaking too fast? Pacing too much? No life, no eye contact, etc.

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Two ideas: You may wish to talk to others about your sermon and share your ideas with them. Doing this often helps me articulate my points and find where I have unclear thinking. Secondly, while you prepare, practice giving your sermon out loud, just as if you are really preaching it. At times, the Spirit, or just the experience of practicing my sermon, will allow me to see something fresh or innovative or an important point or question I had not previously discovered.

## **STEP TWO: THE SERMON**

1. The sermon should be 9–11 minutes in length, followed by 3-5 minutes of feedback from the preaching group.
  
2. **You MUST TURN in a sheet containing the following BEFORE you preach:**
  - a. Your TITLE – this gets the creative juices flowing (you may or may not share this in your sermon)
  - b. Your ANCHOR TEXT(S) – just one, two or three at the most
  - c. Your THEME – like the chorus of a song, the main message in a declarative sentence
  - d. Your PURPOSE – why are you preaching this sermon now? (This may be spoken or unspoken in your message. The point is that I want you to know why you are preaching this idea.)
  - e. The RESPONSE – Life-change, new thinking or action you hope to impart through your sermon
  
3. **PRACTICE YOUR SERMON OUT LOUD AT LEAST TWICE WITHIN THE TIME LIMIT.**
  
4. Before you preach, carefully study the EVALUATION form and incorporate the ideas it contains like pitch and eye contact, illustrations from the “text of scripture” and the “text of life.” WE ARE LOOKING FOR BOTH CONTENT AND PRESENTATION (but mostly content).
  
5. This exercise is not just about the preaching. LISTEN AND LEARN FROM THE STYLES OF THE OTHER PREACHERS THAT ARE SHARING. Be sure to have interesting feedback for others.

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