



Preaching with Power

— PREACHING 101 —



VLAD SCHOOL

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Lesson 1

The Power of Preaching

Preaching is the public proclamation of the gospel message. It involves delivering God's Word to an audience with the purpose of building faith, bringing repentance, and life transformation.

1. John the Baptist Preached to Prepare the Way for Jesus

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matthew 3:1-2 NKJV).

2. Jesus' Ministry Largely Consisted of Preaching

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17 NKJV).

3. Jesus Practiced What He Preached

"The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do" (Matthew 23:2-3 NKJV).

4. Jesus Sent the Disciples Out to Preach

Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons (Mark 3:14-15 NKJV).

Every believer is called to be a witness and to share the gospel. Preaching is not confined to the pulpit but extends to everyday life and interactions with those all around us.

5. Early Christianity Spread Through Preaching

And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ (Acts 5:42 NKJV).



Preaching is a tool for evangelism and church growth. Boldly proclaiming the gospel can bring about revival, even in the face of adversity.

6. Paul Preached the Gospel and Taught Others to Preach

So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes (Romans 1:15-16 NKJV).

Preaching must be multiplied. We ourselves should not only preach, but mentor and equip others to carry the message forward.

7. The Power of Preaching in Transformation

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God (1 Corinthians 1:18 NKJV).

Preaching the gospel is God's chosen method for salvation and transformation. It confronts sin, offers redemption, and brings spiritual renewal.

8. Preaching Brings Faith

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17 NKJV).

9. Preaching Declares God's Glory and Light

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9 NKJV).

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5 NKJV).

10. Jesus Gave the Holy Spirit to Empower Preaching

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8 NKJV).

Rely on the Holy Spirit in your preaching. True power comes when God's Spirit anoints the message and the messenger.

Lesson 2

Preaching is an Act of Impartation

You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart (2 Corinthians 3:2-3 NKJV).

1. Preaching Affects the Heart, Not Just the Mind

- **The Heart is the Target**

The heart is like a blank piece of paper that preaching writes on. Preaching aims to communicate at the deepest level—not just to inform the mind, but to impart truth to the heart.

2. The Preacher is the Pen, but the Holy Spirit is the Ink

- **The Role of the Preacher**

The preacher is an instrument, like a pen, that God uses to deliver the message. The preacher alone cannot change lives. Without the Holy Spirit, the message is just words.

- **The Role of the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the “ink” that brings the message to life. Without the Holy Spirit, the words are dry and ineffective.

Just as a pen without ink cannot write, the preacher without the Spirit has no lasting impact.

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life (John 6:63 NKJV).

3. Information vs. Impartation

- **Information:** Preaching without the Spirit only informs the mind, and information alone doesn't transform lives. It may educate, but it does not empower.
- **Impartation:** Preaching with the Spirit imparts life, faith, and transformation. It goes beyond the mind to one's spirit, depositing spiritual truths that bear fruit.
- **Impartation Builds Faith and Stirs Action:** True preaching, with the Holy Spirit's anointing, not only informs, but imparts faith and activates people to live out the message.

Like planting a physical seed in the soil, impartation plants seeds of faith, hope, and change in the listeners' hearts, which will grow and bear fruit over time.

4. The Holy Spirit Brings Lasting Impact

- **Transformation, Not Just Conviction:**
The goal of preaching is not simply to make people feel convicted, but to bring lasting transformation.
The Holy Spirit convicts, but He also empowers change.
- **Imparting Life through the Word:**
The Word of God, when imparted through anointed preaching, brings life. It is the Spirit that breathes life into the message and into the hearts of the listeners.

5. Practical Tips for Preaching

- **Spend Time in Prayer and Depend on the Holy Spirit.**
"Preaching is like cooking pasta; you've got to let the sauce simmer for a good long while." (Anonymous)
- **Preach with Authority but in Humility.**
- **Invite the Holy Spirit During the Sermon.**

Lesson 3

A Preacher is Not a Motivational Speaker

An excerpt from *A Late Lark Singing: The Secret of Murray McCheyne*, by F.W. Boreham:

His life was hidden with Christ in God. It was in rapt communion with the unseen that he became infected by his Master's insatiable hunger for the souls of men. He wept over Dundee as Jesus wept over Jerusalem. A few years after his death, a young English minister visited St. Peter's to discover, as he explained, the secret of Mr. McCheyne's amazing influence. The sexton, who had served under Mr. McCheyne, took the youthful inquirer into the vestry and pointed to some of McCheyne's books still lying on the table.

'Sit down here,' said the canny old sexton, leading his visitor to the chair in which McCheyne used to sit.

'Now put your elbows on the table!' The visitor obeyed.

'Now put your face in your hands!' The visitor did so.

'Now *let the tears flow!* That was the way Mr. McCheyne used to do!'

The sexton led his guest to the pulpit; and gave him a fresh series of instructions.

'Put your elbows down into the pulpit!' He put his elbows down.

'Now put you face in your hands!' He did so.

'Now *let the tears flow!* That was the way Mr. McCheyne used to do!'

Preaching is God's Appointed Means of Communicating the Gospel.

Jesus and Paul were preachers and throughout history, preaching has been the primary way to lead, teach, and feed the church. Preaching brings transformation to



individuals, institutions, and societies, and is central to winning people to faith in Jesus Christ.

The Rise of Motivational Speaking.

In today's culture, we are surrounded by motivational speakers who inspire and motivate people to improve themselves. While this has its place, biblical preaching goes far beyond inspiration—it is about imparting the transformative power of the gospel.

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15 NKJV).

1. Man-Centered vs. Christ-Centered

- Motivational speaking tends to be man-centered and people-pleasing, focusing on self-improvement and personal success.
- Preaching is Christ-centered and God-honoring, directing people to worship and follow Jesus.

2. Charisma vs. Anointing

- Motivational speaking relies on charisma, personality, and eloquence to inspire people.
- Preaching requires the anointing of the Holy Spirit to deliver the message with spiritual power.

3. Self-Actualization vs. Godliness

- Motivational speaking aims to influence emotions towards self-actualization, focusing on personal goals and achievements.
- Preaching influences the soul towards godliness and a deeper relationship with God.

4. Focus on Works vs. Focus on the Cross

- Motivational speaking often emphasizes personal success and works.
- Preaching proclaims the gospel of Christ's death, resurrection, and the kingdom of God.

5. Self-Help vs. Salvation

- Motivational speaking may include superficial spiritual elements but is primarily focused on self-help strategies.



- Preaching centers on the Gospel message of salvation through Christ's sacrifice, calling people to repentance and faith.

6. Entertainment vs. Holy Awe

- Motivational speaking is often light-hearted, fun, humorous, and entertaining.
- Preaching produces a holy reverence for God and a deep respect for His Word.

7. Showtime vs. Flow of the Spirit

- Motivational speaking feels like a performance, a “showtime” event.
- Preaching is a “flow-time” event, where the Holy Spirit moves through the preacher.

8. Temporary Goals vs. Eternity

- Motivational speaking focuses on temporary goals, happiness, success, and hustle, often avoiding deeper spiritual truths.
- Preaching freely discusses eternal matters such as heaven, hell, and the immortality of the soul.

9. Sugar vs. Salt

- Motivational speaking is like sugar—it's sweet and enjoyable, but leaves people wanting more of the speaker rather than more of God.
- Preaching is like salt—preserving and enhancing the spiritual life, leaving people wanting more of God.

10. God as a Means vs. God as the Goal

- Motivational speaking offers God as a means to achieve our personal goals and desires.
- Preaching presents God as the ultimate goal and purpose of life.

Lesson 4

Preach Like Apollos

Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ (Acts 18:24-28 NKJV).

Apollos was a man of character and skill, and both came through in his preaching. His life gives us some valuable keys to effective ministry. He was:

1. Eloquent and Mighty in the Scriptures (verse 24)

- Apollos was skilled in speech and knowledgeable in the Scriptures. Preachers should be well-versed in the Bible and capable of articulating the message clearly.
- Preachers must invest time in studying the Word to speak effectively and with authority.

2. Fervent in Spirit (verse 25)

- Apollos was passionate about the message he delivered. His fervor wasn't just an outward expression, but came from his inward zeal for the truth.



- Preaching should be done with passion, driven by a deep conviction of the truth and an urgency of the message.

3. Humble and Teachable (verse 26)

- Even though Apollos was skilled and knowledgeable, he was humble enough to receive correction and further instruction from Aquila and Priscilla.
- Effective preachers remain teachable and are willing to learn and grow, recognizing that they don't know everything.

4. Bold in Speech (verse 26)

- Apollos preached with courage and confidence, especially in public settings like in the synagogue.
- Preachers need boldness to declare God's truth without fear of opposition or rejection.

5. Vigorous and Diligent (verse 28)

- Apollos was vigorous in his efforts to preach the gospel, refuting falsehoods and proving that Jesus is the Christ.
- Preachers should be diligent and vigorous in their work, energetically defending the faith and proclaiming the truth.

6. A Great Help to the Believers (verse 27)

- Apollos' preaching brought encouragement and edification to the church. His ministry helped believers grow in grace.
- Preaching should be edifying and uplifting, strengthening the faith of believers and equipping them for spiritual growth.

Lesson 5

Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15 NKJV).

1. Preaching is Work

- Preachers must work hard in studying, preparing, and delivering their sermons. Diligence means exerting oneself with earnest effort.
- Preaching requires preparation and commitment. Preachers must labor in the Word, spending time in prayer and study.

2. Preaching to Please God, Not People

- The ultimate goal of preaching is to please God, not to gain people's approval.
- Preachers should focus on being faithful to God's Word rather than adjusting their message to gain popularity or acceptance.

3. Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

Preaching must be accurate and faithful to the text. This means correctly analyzing, interpreting, and explaining the Scriptures without distortion. Preachers must handle God's Word skillfully, ensuring that they are presenting the truth plainly and clearly, without adding personal bias or twisting the message.

- **Exegesis: Drawing the meaning out of the text.**
 - Exegesis involves understanding the author's intent and the meaning of the text within its original context.
 - Approach Scripture to discover its true meaning rather than impose personal ideas onto it.
 - Example: Jesus explaining the Scriptures on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:27), where He revealed the true meaning of the Old Testament prophecies regarding Himself.

- **Eisegesis: Imposing one's own meaning *onto* the text.**
 - Eisegesis distorts the text to fit preconceived notions or topics.
 - Avoid shaping the text to fit personal agendas or to support arguments that don't align with the original message.
- **Context Determines Meaning**
 - Always read the verses and chapters surrounding the text you want to use. This helps in understanding the full context.
 - Before using a verse in your sermon, ensure it fits the author's original intent, not just your topic.
- **Text Analysis**
 - Break down the passage, focusing on keywords, themes, and structures.
 - Compare Translations:
 - Word-for-Word Translations: (e.g., NKJV, ESV, NASB) provide a more literal interpretation.
 - Thought-for-Thought Translations: (e.g., NLT, NIV) offer a balance between literal translation and readability.
 - Devotional Translations: (e.g., The Message, Living Bible) are paraphrases for reflection but not for deep study.
- **Using Bible Dictionaries and Concordances**
 - Bible Dictionaries: Search your sermon topic to find related passages.
Examples of reliable dictionaries:
 - Easton's Bible Dictionary
 - Nave's Topical Bible
 - Smith's Bible Dictionary
 - Concordances: Find where certain words or themes are mentioned throughout Scripture (e.g., Strong's Concordance).
- **Consult Commentaries (with Caution)**
 - Examples of biblically conservative, evangelical scholarship:
 - Baker Exegetical Commentary
 - Expositor's Bible Commentary
 - IVP New Testament Commentary
 - New International Biblical Commentary
 - Pillar New Testament Commentary
 - Tyndale Commentaries

- Word Biblical Commentary
- Note: Not all commentaries are created equal. Research the author's theological perspective before fully accepting their interpretations.

- **Drawing Theological Principles from the Text**

- The principle should be reflected in the text (not implied).
- The principle should be timeless, not bound to a specific cultural or historical situation.
- The principle should align with the rest of Scripture.
- The principle should be relevant to both the original and today's audiences.
- The principle should be clear and complete (not vague or hard to apply).

Example: From the story of David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17), a timeless principle could be: "Trust in God's power to overcome impossible obstacles, rather than relying on human strength alone."

- **Avoid Common Errors in Interpretation**

- Taking Verses Out of Context

Don't isolate verses to make them fit your message. Ensure the meaning aligns with the surrounding text and the overall message of the Bible.

Example: Philippians 4:13: *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me* (NKJV).

This verse is often quoted to suggest personal empowerment in any situation, but in context, it's about finding contentment in Christ, regardless of circumstances.

- Misapplying Cultural Principles

Ensure that the principle you are drawing is not tied to a specific culture or situation, but can be applied universally.

Example: Certain Old Testament laws were meant for ancient Israel's context and are not directly applicable today (e.g., dietary laws).

Lesson 6

Practical Laws of Preaching

Law 1: Preach to the Whole Congregation, Not to an Individual

Don't target or focus on one person in the audience. Make the message applicable and relevant to the entire congregation to avoid bias and misinterpretation.

Law 2: Align with Doctrine

Ensure your sermon is consistent with the doctrine of the church. Avoid teachings that contradict the established beliefs and values of your ministry.

Law 3: Spend Hours in Meditation, Preparation, and Familiarization

Preparation is key. Meditate on Scripture, spend time crafting your sermon, and become thoroughly familiar with your material so you can deliver it with confidence and clarity.

Law 4: Avoid Excessive Use of “I”

Avoid making the sermon about yourself. Focus more on God's Word and how it applies to the congregation, rather than personal stories or achievements.

Law 5: Focus on Helping, Not Impressing

The goal of preaching is to help people grow in their faith and relationship with God, not to impress them with your knowledge, charisma, or storytelling skills.

Law 6: Reinforce the Church's Vision and Values

Every sermon should reinforce the church's vision and cultural values. Avoid introducing concepts that contradict the mission of the ministry.



Law 7: Keep the New Testament Perspective

Ground your sermons in the perspective of the New Testament. Focus on the life and teachings of Jesus, the apostles, and the message of grace, love, and redemption.

Law 8: Be Authentic

Authenticity breeds trust. Preach from your own struggles, victories, and life experiences. People are drawn to realness, not perfection.

Law 9: Reflect Your Personality, Don't Imitate Someone Else

Don't try to be someone else. The best preachers reflect their own personalities in their messages. Imitating another preacher diminishes the impact of the sermon.

Law 10: Make it Relevant to Daily Life

A good sermon must apply to people's everyday lives. Make sure your message relates to the challenges, struggles, and experiences they face beyond Sunday.

Law 11: Focus on What We Are For, Not Just What We Are Against

Emphasize the positive aspects of the gospel and Christian life. Focus more on God's love, grace, and purpose than on what you oppose.

Law 12: Make Sermons Noteworthy

Structure your sermon in a way that makes it easy to take notes. Use clear points, memorable phrases, and practical applications that people can write down and refer to later.

Law 13: Use Humor Sparingly

Humor can be a powerful tool, but it should never overshadow the message. Use humor as a bonus, not the main feature of your sermon.

Law 14: Speak with Authority, but Stay Within Your Level of Credibility

Preach from a place of experience and understanding. Avoid speaking on topics where you lack authority or credibility, as this can diminish your impact.

Law 15: Teach the “How” and the “Why,” Not Just the “What”

A sermon should not only tell people what to do but also how to do it. Provide practical steps for applying biblical principles to their lives.

Law 16: Listen to Other Preachers

Learning from others will make you a better preacher. If you don't listen to other preachers, your congregation may struggle to listen to you.

Law 17: Your Spirit Is More Important Than Your Sermon

The attitude and spirit behind your preaching are more important than the content. People will feel your sincerity, passion, and love for God's Word.

Law 18: Avoid “Microwave Messages”

Quick, underdeveloped sermons rarely change lives. Spend time preparing so that your message is more than information—it becomes a revelation.

Law 19: Honor the Clock

Be respectful of people's time. A long sermon does not necessarily mean a good sermon. Learn to deliver powerful messages within a set time limit.

Law 20: Welcome Feedback

Feedback helps you grow as a preacher. Be open to constructive criticism and allow others to help you refine your message and delivery.

Lesson 7

How to Prepare a Sermon

Step 1: Choose a Scripture Text

- Select one of these elements as the basis for your sermon:
 - **Bible Stories:** (e.g., David and Goliath, Jesus' miracles).
 - **Bible Sermons:** (e.g., Peter's message in Acts 2, Stephen's message in Acts 7).
 - **Bible Doctrine:** (e.g., Lord's Supper from Matthew 26, Luke 22, or 1 Corinthians 10-11).

Step 2: Study the Text in Context

- **Read the Full Text:** Before preparing the message, read not only the key verse but the surrounding chapters to understand the full context.
- For short books like **Jonah**, it's essential to read the entire book.
- This gives your sermon "meat" and helps form a complete understanding of the story or teaching.

Step 3: Let the Text Determine the Topic/Title

- Allow the text to reveal its message rather than imposing a preconceived topic.
- **Example:** From a story like David and Goliath, the focus could shift from simply "victory" to "faith in God during overwhelming odds."
- **Working Titles:** It's fine to start with a working title, but be willing to change it based on the true message of the text.

Step 4: Create a Sermon Outline

- **Major Points:** Break the text into key points or themes. The structure can be in a 1, 2, 3 format, ensuring each point flows naturally from the text.
- Use the **text and context** to dictate your outline. Develop it by asking what the passage says about God, people, and the problem being addressed.

Step 5: Use Supporting Scriptures

- Cross-reference other Scriptures using a **concordance** (printed or electronic).
- Remember the principle, **Scripture interprets Scripture**. Let other parts of the Bible reinforce and clarify your main text.

Step 6: Keep the Sermon Simple and Accessible

- Avoid confusing or overly academic titles and concepts.
 - **Good Title:** “What the Bible Says About Abortion.”
 - **Bad Title:** “Pre-Natal Eugenics” (this title is too obscure).
- Focus on making your message easy to understand and follow.

Step 7: Use Illustrations to Bring the Message to Life

- **Personal Illustrations:** Share relatable stories from your own life or the experiences of others to connect the sermon’s points to real-life situations.
- **Biblical Illustrations:** Refer to other Bible stories or examples to reinforce your message.

Step 8: Develop an Invitation

- Craft an invitation based on the message of the sermon, calling the congregation to respond in faith, repentance, or commitment.
- The invitation should align with the central message of your sermon and provide a clear next step for the listener.

Step 9: Preach Faithfully and Authentically

- Stay true to the text and let the Word of God speak to both the congregation and you.
- **Practice:** Familiarize yourself with your material to ensure a smooth and confident delivery.

Step 10: Trust in the Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit inspired God’s Word, and He is the one who brings transformation through the preaching of it.
- Prayerfully rely on Him throughout your sermon preparation and delivery.



Lesson 8

Stage Etiquette for Preaching

1. Voice

- Project Your Voice
 - Speak from the diaphragm, not from the throat, ensuring you are heard clearly.
 - Avoid developing an unnatural “preaching voice” that sounds forced or otherworldly.
- Use Variety in Tone
 - Change intensity and tone to emphasize key points and avoid monotony.
 - Practice deep, natural tonality for a more serious and engaging delivery.
- Pronunciation
 - Articulate words clearly, almost to the point of over-pronunciation, avoiding slurring.

2. Language

- Avoid Overuse of Pet Phrases
 - Identify common phrases or words (e.g., “Amen,” “Hallelujah”) and limit their use to avoid redundancy.
- Limit Questions to the Congregation
 - Keep rhetorical questions to a minimum, as the sermon is not a dialogue.
- Maintain Sound Theology
 - Avoid overstatements that might sacrifice theological accuracy for emphasis.
 - Avoid saying, “God told me,” as it may undermine credibility.
- Simplify and Clarify
 - Don’t over-explain. Trust that the congregation can understand the message without excessive elaboration.
 - Avoid slang that may not be understood by all cultural backgrounds.
- Announcing Points

- Be consistent when announcing sermon points, especially when outlining steps of action.
- Keep the Message Simple
 - Avoid trying to be “deep.” The gospel is simple but profound. When you overcomplicate it, it loses clarity.

3. Stance and Gestures

- Posture
 - Maintain good posture. Avoid leaning on or clinging to the pulpit.
 - Move naturally and purposefully, but avoid pacing aimlessly across the stage.
- Purposeful Gestures
 - Make gestures deliberate and visible to the audience.
 - Avoid continuous hand movements or keeping hands in your pockets.
- Body Language
 - Be mindful of body language, as it can communicate as much as words.

4. Rate and Pacing

- Pace Yourself
 - Avoid rushing through the message. Slow down and pause occasionally to let points sink in.
- Give the Congregation Time
 - When reading Scripture or referencing a Bible text, give the congregation time to follow along.
- Read Slowly
 - Ensure your reading pace allows the audience to absorb the message.

5. Appearance

- Dress Appropriately
 - Choose attire suitable for the occasion—neither too casual nor too formal.
 - Avoid clothing that is too tight, too baggy, or overly revealing.
- Dress Code Guidelines

- Don't wear ripped jeans, graphic tees that don't represent Christ, or flashy accessories.
- Men should avoid piercings on stage, and women should limit piercings to ears only.
- Eye Contact and Smiling
 - Maintain eye contact with the congregation to create connection and trust.
 - Smile to project warmth and approachability.

6. Microphone Use

- Microphone Handling
 - Ensure the microphone is turned on before speaking.
 - Hold the microphone 1–2 inches from your mouth, gripping the middle of the handle. Avoid holding the mesh or the base.

7. Audience Engagement

- Know Your Audience
 - Be aware of who is in the room and how they are responding.
- Interactive Engagement
 - Use call-and-response techniques when appropriate (especially during prayer points).
 - Address online viewers if streaming, using phrases like “drop an emoji in the comments” or “type ‘Amen’ in the chat.”

8. Time Management

- Honor the Time Slot
 - Stick to the time you're given. Going beyond the allotted time disrupts the service flow.
- Trim the Fat
 - Keep your sermon focused on the key points, cutting out unnecessary filler.
- Practice:
 - Rehearse your message aloud to ensure you're within the time limit, while maintaining a natural flow.

Appendix 1

How to Do an Offering Sermon

Sample Introduction:

“We’ve come to a time of worship through giving. Some of you give during our service, while others give online or through your bank. Regardless of how you give, this is an opportunity to worship God through your generosity.”

Quick Tip: Keep this part short, sweet, and to the point (5 seconds).

1. Express Gratitude for the Giving

- “We are so grateful for your faithful and generous giving, which supports the mission of this church and allows us to make a difference.”
- Quick Tip: Thank the church for their generous giving (5 seconds).

2. Share a Scripture on Giving

- “In 2 Corinthians 9:7, we are reminded that God loves a cheerful giver. Our giving reflects our trust in God as our provider and partner in His Kingdom work.”
- Quick Tip: Share a God-centered truth from the Bible, highlighting how generosity flows from the heart of God (10 seconds).

3. Share a Truth or Testimony

- Share a leadership testimony or personal experience with giving, demonstrating how giving has impacted your life.
- Example: “Lana and I give faithfully through online banking each month, ensuring that our giving supports the work of HungryGen. We consider it the best investment we make.”
- Quick Tip: Share a theological truth from the giver’s perspective. Giving builds our faith, confidence, and discipleship (40 seconds).

4. Connect Giving to the Vision

- Share specific examples of how the church uses offerings to support ministries and outreach.



- Example: “Your giving enables us to reach people in our local community and across the globe, bringing hope and sharing the love of Jesus.”
- Quick Tip: Celebrate the impact of giving (10 seconds).

5. Provide Ways to Give

- Briefly explain the various ways people can give, such as with cash, check, online platforms, or bank transfers.
- Quick Tip: Avoid saying “we take” cash or checks. Instead, say, “You can participate through...” (5 seconds).

6. Include Online Viewers

- “If you are joining us online, you can participate in giving through our website or mobile app.”
- Quick Tip: Make sure to include online viewers and guide them on how they can give (5 seconds).

7. Pray for Those Giving

- “Lord, we thank You for the generosity of this congregation. We ask that You bless every giver and every gift. May it further Your Kingdom and bring transformation. Amen.”
- Quick Tip: Pray for the givers, emphasizing that first-time guests are welcome to give but are not obligated (10 seconds).

Appendix 2

How to Do an Altar Call for Salvation

1. Who Is the Altar Call For?

- Sinners: Those who have never received Christ and need to repent and be born again (John 3:3).
 - Invite them to experience new life through Jesus, emphasizing that salvation is a gift freely given by God (Romans 6:23).
- Backsliders: Those who once followed Jesus but have drifted away and need to recommit their lives to Him.
 - Encourage them to return to Jesus, reminding them of God's grace and willingness to forgive (1 John 1:9).

2. How to Make the Altar Call

- Make Your Call Clear:
 - Clearly state that the altar call is for those who want to be saved and commit or recommit their lives to Jesus.
 - *If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved* (Romans 10:9).
 - Example: "If you've never personally received Jesus yet, today is your opportunity to invite Him into your life. Or, if you've walked away and want to come back, Jesus is waiting for you."

3. Appeal for a Response

- Invite People to Respond:
 - Close Eyes: Ask the congregation to close their eyes to create a private and focused moment.
 - Count to Three: Use a countdown to create anticipation and give people a moment to decide.
 - Example: "I'm going to count to three and when I reach three, raise your hand if you want to give your life to Jesus or come back to Him."

- Raise Hands: Invite people to raise their hands as a public sign of their decision, then evaluate if they should come forward or remain in their seats.

4. Guiding People to Come Forward

- Invite to the Altar:
 - After hands are raised, invite those who are ready and willing to come forward to the altar for prayer and further ministry.
 - Don't Rush: Allow time for people to make their decision, but don't drag the moment unnecessarily.
 - *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest"* (Matthew 11:28).

5. Include Online Audience

- Extend Invitation to Online Viewers:
 - Don't forget the online audience; invite them to respond from where they are.
 - Example: "If you're watching online and want to give your life to Jesus, you can respond right now by typing 'I give my life to Jesus' in the chat."
 - Provide a clear next step, such as directing them to an online altar room or follow-up form.

6. Lead in the Sinner's Prayer

- Prayer: Lead those responding through a simple, clear prayer of salvation.
 - Example Prayer:
 - "Lord Jesus, I confess that I am a sinner and I need a Savior. I believe that You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I ask You to come into my life, forgive me, and make me a new person. I choose to surrender and follow You from this day forward. In Jesus' name, Amen."
- Reassure Them of Their Salvation:
 - *Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God* (John 1:12).
 - Reassure those who prayed that they are now saved, based on God's promise in His Word.

7. Next Steps

- Next Steps After the Altar Call:



- Encourage them to take the next steps in their faith, such as:
 - Attending a discipleship class.
 - Reading the Bible daily.
 - Connecting with a small group or community.
 - Water baptism as a public declaration of their new life in Christ (Acts 2:38).
- Online Viewers:
 - Provide instructions for online participants to join a follow-up group or speak with a pastor in a virtual altar room.
 - Example: “If you gave your life to Jesus online, we want to connect with you. Please click the link in the chat to join our altar room or fill out a follow-up form.”

Conclusion: Celebrate Their Decision

- **Celebrate the Moment:**
 - Lead the congregation in celebrating those who made a decision for Christ. This creates an atmosphere of joy and welcome.
 - “*There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents*” (Luke 15:10 NCB).
 - Example: “Let’s give a hand for everyone who made their decision to follow Jesus today, whether in the room or online!”

Appendix 3

How to Conduct a Wedding

1. Entrance of the Bridal Party

- Bridesmaids and groomsmen enter.
- Flower girl and ring bearer follow.
- The bride enters last, escorted by her father or another family member.

2. Opening Prayer and Welcome

- Greeting:
 - Welcome guests and invite them to participate in witnessing this sacred union.
 - Example: “Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today in the presence of God to witness the joining of [Groom’s Name] and [Bride’s Name] in holy matrimony. This is a sacred moment as they make a solemn commitment to live their lives as one, with Christ at the center.”
- Opening Prayer:
 - Offer a prayer asking for God’s blessing over the ceremony, the couple, and their future together.
 - Example Prayer: “Heavenly Father, we thank You for this special day. We ask for Your presence to be with us as [Groom’s Name] and [Bride’s Name] unite themselves in marriage. May Your love be the foundation of their relationship and may they honor You in all they do. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

3. Reading of Scripture

- Scripture Passages on Marriage:
 - Read selected passages that reflect the biblical view of marriage.
 - Examples:
 - Genesis 2:24: “*Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*”
 - Ephesians 5:25-33: Instructions for husbands and wives, emphasizing love and respect.

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7: The description of love, focusing on its selflessness and patience.

4. Exhortation/Message

- Short Sermon or Reflection:
 - Deliver a brief message on the significance of Christian marriage, drawing from Scripture.
 - Emphasize themes such as:
 - Marriage as a covenant between the couple and God.
 - The importance of mutual love, respect, and self-sacrifice (Ephesians 5:21).
 - Keeping Christ at the center of their union.
 - Encouraging the couple to rely on God's grace through the ups and downs of life.
- Example Exhortation: "Marriage is a reflection of Christ's relationship with the church. Just as Christ loves us sacrificially, so must you love and serve each other. This love is patient, kind, and enduring, built on the foundation of God's love."

5. Exchange of Vows

- Traditional or Personalized Vows:
 - The couple can recite traditional vows or write their own.
 - Example Traditional Vows:
 - Groom: "I, [Groom's Name], take you, [Bride's Name], to be my lawfully wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge you my faith."
 - Bride: "I, [Bride's Name], take you, [Groom's Name], to be my lawfully wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge you my faith."

6. Exchange of Rings

- The Symbolism of the Rings:
 - Explain that the rings are a symbol of the unending love and commitment the couple has for each other.

- Example: “The circle of these rings represents eternity. Just as your love for each other should be eternal and unbroken, so these rings serve as a reminder of your vows and the covenant you are making today.”
- Ring Exchange:
 - Groom: “With this ring, I thee wed, and with it, I give you my love and devotion.”
 - Bride: “With this ring, I thee wed, and with it, I give you my love and devotion.”

7. Unity Ceremony (Optional)

- Symbolic Act:
 - Consider a unity candle, sand ceremony, or other symbolic acts representing the couple’s unity in Christ.
 - Example: “As [Groom’s Name] and [Bride’s Name] light this unity candle, it symbolizes their two lives becoming one in Christ, joined together by His love.”

8. Pronouncement of Marriage

- Official Declaration:
 - Pronounce the couple as husband and wife.
 - Example: “By the authority vested in me as a minister of the gospel and by the state of [State], I now pronounce you husband and wife. What God has joined together, let no man separate.”
- Kiss:
 - Invite the groom to kiss the bride.
 - Example: “You may now kiss your bride.”

9. Closing Prayer and Blessing

- Final Prayer:
 - Offer a prayer for God’s continued blessing on the couple’s marriage.
 - Example Prayer: “Father, we thank You for this union and for the love You’ve placed in [Groom’s Name] and [Bride’s Name]. We ask that You guide them in their journey as husband and wife, strengthen them through every trial, and fill their marriage with joy, peace, and love. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”
- Benediction:
 - Pronounce a blessing over the couple.

- Example: “May the Lord bless you and keep you. May His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May He lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace, now and forever. Amen.”

10. Presentation of the Couple

- Presentation:
 - Announce the couple to the guests for the first time as husband and wife.
 - Example: “Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to present to you, for the first time, Mr. and Mrs. [Last Name]!”

Appendix 4

How to Conduct a Funeral Service

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Opening Statement:
 - Welcome the family, friends, and attendees, expressing sympathy and compassion for their loss.
 - Example: “Today we gather to honor the life of [Deceased’s Name], to mourn their passing, and to find comfort in the hope that God provides. While we grieve, we also celebrate the life they lived and the eternal life that is promised through Jesus Christ.”
- Acknowledgment of the Family:
 - Take a moment to acknowledge the presence of close family members and express heartfelt condolences.

2. Opening Prayer

- Prayer for Comfort:
 - Offer a prayer asking God to bring peace and comfort to those gathered and to guide the service.
 - Example Prayer: “Heavenly Father, we come to You with heavy hearts. We ask for Your presence to be with us today as we remember [Deceased’s Name]. Comfort us in our grief and remind us of the hope we have in You. Help us to celebrate their life and to draw strength from Your promises of eternal life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

3. Scripture Reading

- Scriptures of Comfort and Hope:
 - Select passages that speak to God’s love, the hope of resurrection, and the peace we find in Christ.
 - Examples:
 - John 14:1-3: Jesus prepares a place for us in heaven.
 - Psalm 23: The Lord is our Shepherd, bringing comfort even in the valley of death.

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18: The promise of resurrection and reunion with loved ones.
- Revelation 21:4: God will wipe away every tear, and there will be no more death or mourning.

4. Eulogy/Personal Remarks

- Eulogy by Family or Friends:
 - Invite a family member or close friend to give a eulogy or personal remarks about the life of the deceased.
 - This time allows for reflection on the life, character, and legacy of the person who has passed.
- Pastoral Remarks (Optional):
 - If the family prefers, the pastor may deliver the eulogy, sharing personal reflections on the deceased's faith and legacy.
 - Example: "I had the privilege of knowing [Deceased's Name] as someone who loved deeply, lived faithfully, and served others. Their life was a testimony to the love of Christ."

5. Message of Hope and Comfort

- Short Sermon or Reflection:
 - Offer a brief message that brings comfort to the grieving and shares the hope of eternal life through Jesus.
 - Emphasize the following themes:
 - God's Comfort in Grief: Remind the family that God is near to the brokenhearted (Psalm 34:18).
 - The Hope of the Resurrection: For believers, death is not the end, but the beginning of eternal life with Christ (1 Corinthians 15:52-55).
 - Salvation and Eternal Life: Share the promise of eternal life through faith in Jesus (John 11:25-26).
 - Invitation to Trust in Christ: Offer the attendees the opportunity to reflect on their relationship with Christ and the peace He offers, especially in times of loss.
- Example Sermon Excerpt: "While we grieve today, we also hold onto the hope that [Deceased's Name] is now in the presence of their Savior. In Jesus, death has lost its sting. We are reminded of the words of our Lord, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though they die, yet shall they live.'"

6. Committal Service (if held at graveside)

- Scripture Reading:
 - Read a Scripture that speaks to the finality of this life and the promise of eternal life.
 - Examples:
 - 1 Corinthians 15:42-44: The resurrection of the body.
 - Ecclesiastes 3:1-2: A time for every purpose under heaven.
- Committal Words:
 - As the body is laid to rest, offer a committal prayer or statement.
 - Example: “We now commit the body of [Deceased’s Name] to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- Prayer of Final Farewell:
 - Offer a closing prayer, asking for God’s continued comfort and peace.
 - Example Prayer: “Lord, we commit [Deceased’s Name] into Your care. May Your peace that passes all understanding guard our hearts and minds as we leave this place, knowing that Your promises are true. Bring us comfort in our sorrow and fill us with hope for the future. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

7. Closing Prayer and Benediction

- Prayer for Peace:
 - Pray for the family and friends, asking God to bring comfort, strength, and hope in the days ahead.
 - Example Prayer: “Father, we thank You for the life of [Deceased’s Name], and we ask for Your continued peace to surround their family and friends. Be with us as we go, and may we find comfort in Your presence and strength in the love we share with one another. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”
- Benediction:
 - Pronounce a blessing over the congregation as they leave.
 - Example: “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace. Amen” (Numbers 6:24-26).

Appendix 5

Resources for Preaching

1. Sermons from Others

- Why Use Sermons from Others?
 - To gain inspiration and new perspectives on familiar topics.
 - To understand how other preachers approach specific Scriptures or issues.
 - To learn different ways to structure and organize sermons.
- Key Resources:
 - Preaching Today (<https://www.preachingtoday.com/>):
 - SermonSearch (<https://www.sermonsearch.com/>):
 - SermonCentral (<https://sermoncentral.com/>):

2. Illustrations and Quotes for Sermons

- Illustrations and quotes make the sermon relatable and engaging by connecting theological truths to real-life situations.
- Quotes from respected Christian leaders or authors can enhance the credibility and depth of your message.
- Illustrations can help explain complex ideas in a simple and memorable way.
- Key Resources:
 - *Sermon Illustrations* (<http://www.sermonillustrations.com/a-z/d/index.htm>):
 - *The Pastor's Workshop - Sermon Quotes* (<https://thepastorsworkshop.com/sermon-quotes-list-of-topics/>)
 - *Perfect Illustrations for Every Topic and Occasion*, Craig Brian Larson, Tyndale House Publishers, 2002.
 - *More Perfect Illustrations for Every Topic and Occasion*, Craig Brian Larson, Tyndale House Publishers, 2003.
 - *Nelson's Big Book of Laughter*, Lowell D. Streiker, Nelson Reference and Electronic Publishing, 2000.
 - *Swindoll's Ultimate Book of Illustrations and Quotes*, Charles R. Swindoll, Thomas Nelson, 2003.

- *Speaker's Sourcebook of New Illustrations*, Virgil Hurley, Thomas Nelson, 1995.
- *2,200 Quotations: From the Writings of Charles H. Spurgeon*, Tom Carter, Baker Publishing Group, 1996.
- *A Treasury of Bible Illustrations*, no author specified, AMG Publishers, 1993.
- *Encyclopedia of 7,700 Illustrations*, Paul Lee Tan, Assurance Publishers, 1984.
- *1,500 Illustrations for Biblical Preaching*, Michael P. Green, Baker Books, 2000.
- *10,000 Biblical Illustrations*, Charles E. Little, Literary Licensing LLC, 2011.
- *10,000 Sermon Illustrations*, no author specified, Biblical Studies Press, LLC, 2000.
- *1001 Illustrations that Connect*, Craig Brian Larson, Zondervan, 2008.

3. Study Tools and Resources for Exegesis

- Invest in a top-quality, leather-bound NKJV Bible. This will be your preaching Bible. Get a good one.
- Bible Dictionaries and Concordances:
 - Zondervan Illustrated Bible Dictionary
 - Naves Topical Bible Index: Helps preachers quickly find passages on specific topics or themes for sermons.
 - Strong's Concordance
- Commentaries
 - IVP Bible Background Commentaries: OT and NT
 - Faith Life Study Bible: Offers modern theological perspectives and cultural context for today's preacher.
- Bible Translations
 - Word-for-Word Translations: NKJV, ESV, NASB for detailed exegesis.
 - Thought-for-Thought Translations: NIV, NLT for practical application.
 - Paraphrased Translations: The Message, The Living Bible for devotional reflection and illustrative purposes

4. Online Tools for Research and Planning

- Logos Bible Software ([/www.logos.com/](http://www.logos.com/)) The software is expensive and complicated, but well worth the investment if you have extra money.
- Olive Tree Bible Software (www.olivetree.com) Very functional; much cheaper and more user friendly than Logos software.
- Blue Letter Bible ([/www.blueletterbible.org/](http://www.blueletterbible.org/))

Appendix 5

- Bible Gateway (www.biblegateway.com/)
- YouVersion (www.youversion.com) The Bible in every language imaginable!
- BibleProject (www.bibleproject.com) The Bible in graphic and video form. The material is theologically extensive and sound.



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