

Steps Every Preacher Should Take Before Reaching The Pulpit

As a preacher, your primary responsibility is to deliver God's Word to the congregation in a clear, compelling, and impactful manner. This requires meticulous preparation and a deep spiritual connection. Before you step into the pulpit, there are several essential steps you should take to ensure that your sermon is both effective and transformative.

1. Exegetical Study

The foundation of any good sermon lies in a thorough exegetical study of the biblical text. This involves carefully examining the passage in its original language, taking into account historical, cultural, and literary context. Ask questions about the author's intended meaning, the audience's perspective, and the overall message of the passage. Use reliable commentaries and resources to gain a comprehensive understanding of the text.



Sermon Prep Made Easy: 6 Steps Every Preacher Should Take Before Reaching the Pulpit by Sherri L. Jackson

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2. Sermon Structure

Once you have a solid understanding of the biblical text, it's time to develop the structure of your sermon. This includes identifying the main points, supporting arguments, and overall flow of the message. Consider your audience's needs and interests, and tailor your sermon accordingly. Create an outline that clearly outlines the progression of your thoughts, making it easy for listeners to follow.

Own the Vision

Big Idea of the Series: This three-week series is designed to accompany a church-wide stewardship campaign. Whether you are raising money for facility improvements, a new ministry, or a building project, this study will help your congregants understand the mission of the local church and the importance of financially supporting it as God's hands and feet in the world. "Own the Vision" is about doing just that—owning the vision that God has overtop for our community and the world.

Week 1

Text: Matthew 28:16–20

Topic(s): Evangelism, Discipleship, Mission

Big Idea of the Message: Jesus commanded Christians to live on mission through evangelism, discipleship, and community.

Application Point: Our vision within our local church should include making disciples, not just converts.

Introduction: What does it mean to receive a mission? We may think of a military call to action, or perhaps a top-secret message that will self-destruct in five seconds (like in the *Mission: Impossible* franchise). You might not be a Navy SEAL or a secret agent, but if you are a follower of Jesus, you have been assigned a mission, the most important one: to reach a lost world with the good news of God's love for them. As believers, we carry a message that can mean life or death for many. Jesus commanded Christians to live on mission through evangelism, discipleship, and community. Doing our part to fulfill his commission is the vision of this church.

Point #1: We Are Called to Go (vv. 16–19)

Explanation: Jesus gathered his followers for his last words on earth, a pretty important message. He gave them their final instructions before he ascended into heaven (vv. 16–17). Because Jesus has been given all authority (v. 18), he tells them to "go and tell the world." Because Jesus was victorious over sin and death, his disciples' mission was to go and make more disciples by telling them what Jesus has done (v. 19).

Illustration: For people who decide they can't leave town for vacation but still want to have a special time with family out of the normal routine by doing fun things and resting, they may choose to take a "staycation," a vacation in their hometown. Some ideas for a staycation include finding tourist attractions in your area and making a day trip, loading up on special treats and snacks, watching a family movie projected on a wall outside, and trying new restaurants out of the normal lineup. It's not about the location but about the quality time together. In the same way, many believers might think going on a mission trip is the only way to share the gospel with people who need to hear it. But we can stay in our home town and live on mission, too.

Application: Often, when we see the words "all nations" in this passage, we can be

3. Audience Analysis

Understanding your audience is crucial for effective preaching. Conduct research on their demographics, needs, and expectations. Determine their level of biblical knowledge, theological orientation, and cultural background. Consider what is most relevant to them and how your sermon can address

their specific challenges and aspirations. Avoid using jargon or making assumptions that may alienate or confuse listeners.



4. Prayer

Prayer is an indispensable part of sermon preparation. Seek God's guidance throughout the process, asking for wisdom, clarity, and anointing. Pray for your own heart to be aligned with God's Word and for the Holy Spirit to empower your message. Pray for your audience, asking that their hearts would be open and receptive to the truth. Prayer will connect you to the divine source of your message and make it a powerful instrument of God's grace.



5. Seeking Guidance

Don't hesitate to seek guidance from other trusted individuals, such as mentors, colleagues, or close friends. Share your sermon outline or draft with them and ask for their feedback. Constructive criticism can help you identify areas for improvement and ensure that your message is clear and well-received. Be open to suggestions and adjust your sermon accordingly, while remaining confident in the unique calling God has placed on your life.



Preparing to preach is not merely an academic exercise; it's a sacred act of worship and service. By following these steps, you will not only improve the quality of your sermons but also experience a deeper connection with God and a greater impact on your congregation. Remember, the pulpit is not a stage for self-promotion but an altar where you offer God's Word to the hungry souls who gather before you. Approach it with humility, prayer, and a burning desire to proclaim the truth that sets people free.



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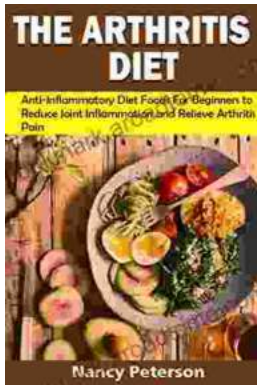
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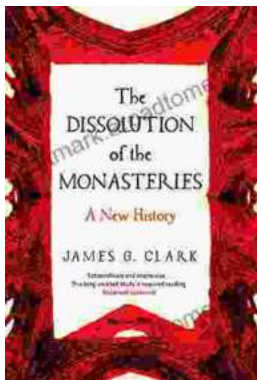
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