

STEPS OF SERMON PREPARATION....some ideas

1. Identify the text(s) / season / theme

- a. Read your key text in several translations as part of your preparation
- b. What liturgical season is it? (Epiphanytide, Lent, Easter, Ordinary Time etc)

2. Know and understand your 'audience' (congregation)

- a. Age profile
- b. Expectations
- c. Personal narratives you are aware of
Eg illness, pastoral needs, events in the life of the congregation

3. What is the style of the liturgy of the service at which I am to preach?

- a. Book of Common Prayer?
- b. Book of Alternative Services?
- c. Eucharistic / Non-Eucharistic?
- d. Formal
- e. Informal
- f. Where in the monthly pattern of the liturgy does this particular liturgy fit?

4. What type of sermon is this to be?

Expository – the bringing out / uncovering of the 'deeper truth' within and behind the text

Topical – choosing a topic (like judgement, or inclusion, or healing) and using a range of scripture and reflections to teach and explain and apply

Textual – the selection of a short piece of scripture, or verse, followed by a deep exploration into its meaning

Biographical – the use of a life-story (often a Biblical character or 'saint') to illustrate a teaching point

Or maybe a combination of any of the above

5. Identify an illustration

Would an illustration from daily life be helpful to 'earth' the message?

6. What is the sermon's application (the 'take home' message?)

What ONE thing might people do / think / say differently as a result of your sermon?

7. Try to sum up your sermon in ONE sentence – if you can't do it, neither will anyone else!

Personal Preparation

Here are some questions to pray over / reflect upon before preaching:

a. Is my approach to my preaching Christ-centred?

What does it mean for you / your congregation to be Christ-centred?

How is 'Christ-centredness' expressed in your life / ministry, and in the life of the congregation?

b. Is your motive right?

The ego is terribly at risk in the pulpit. If you do well, the temptation is to feel self-indulgently proud. If you do poorly, the risk is to feel discouraged and deflated.

c. Do you love your listeners?

If you do they will generally love you and your message. Will you love them even if your sermon doesn't change them quickly? The oak tree is a miracle: it grows slowly but very strong. Often, church members are the same. They (we) change slowly. Preaching to a congregation is like throwing buckets of water over a room full of bottles. Some are wide-mouthed and receive much, and some are tiny mouthed and receive little. Much is lost on the floor. God will take care of it!

d. Is your objective clear in this sermon?

Do you know where you are going with this sermon? Has the Holy Spirit shown you?

What is your destination?

e. Is your heart moved by your message?

We move others best with what moves us most. If you're not moved by what you preach, it is unlikely that others will be either.

In *Preaching With Imagination*, Warren Wiersbe suggests we might ask ourselves seven questions in sermon preparation:

1. What does the text say?
2. How does the text say it?
3. What did the text mean to the original hearers?
4. How does the text apply to the Church today?
5. How does the text apply to me today?
6. How does the text apply to the congregation today?
7. How can I make the text meaningful to my hearers?

SERMON REFLECTION / EVALUATION

A way of involving members of the congregation

Please try to give as much detail in your responses as you can

Name of preacher:

Date of sermon:

Place:

Focus Scripture:

Theme:

What was the main message you heard?

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How was the message related to...

- ❖ Scripture reading(s)?

- ❖ Events in the life of the church?

- ❖ Events in the life of the world?

Was it well said?

Please tick the appropriate boxes		Requires attention	Satisfactory	Good	Outstanding
Quality of beginning / sermon opener	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Comment					
Quality of ending	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Comment					
Use of 'story'	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Comment					
Use of imagery / pictures	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Comment					
Flow of ideas / argument	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Comment					
It was at the 'right level'	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Comment					

Was it well delivered?

Please tick the appropriate boxes		Requires attention	Satisfactory	Good	Outstanding
Audibility of preacher					
Comment					
Use of voice (pitch / pace / tone etc)					
Comment					
Good communication skills					
Comment					
Use of eye contact					
Comment					
Flow of ideas / argument					
Comment					
The sermon 'came from the heart'					
Comment					

Was it worth saying?

Please tick the appropriate boxes		Requires attention	Satisfactory	Good	Outstanding
You were touched by what was said					
Example					
You were persuaded by what was said					
Example					
You were challenged by what was said					
Example					
The sermon was clear and articulated Good News from God at its heart					
Example					
Flow of ideas / argument					
Example					
The sermon 'came from the heart'					
Example					