

TEACHING & PREACHING GOD'S WORD



Leader's Notes

(The answers to the blanks, and suggested answers to other questions are given in italics.)

It is a privilege to teach and preach God's Word! However it is also a responsibility, as we are teaching or preaching on behalf of Jesus. We learn so much from listening to others. Timothy learnt from the Apostle Paul, and Paul was able to say to him, "The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable men ...". However Paul also urged Timothy to be well prepared and to be a good work man who correctly handled God's Word.

This training session is aimed at helping you prepare God's Word so that you can teach others effectively. Let's begin by looking briefly at what the Bible says about teaching and preaching, and then we will focus on the art of preaching.

Matthew 9:35 "Jesus went through all the towns and villages, *teaching* in their synagogues, *preaching* the good news of the Kingdom."

Matthew 11:1 "After Jesus had finished instructing His twelve disciples, He went on from there to *teach* and *preach* in the towns of Galilee."

A. A COMMISSION TO TEACH & PREACH

1. Jesus was the greatest example

His Preaching

Luke 4:43 "I must *preach the good news*."

Luke 4:18 "He has anointed me to *preach good news to the poor*."

His Teaching

He was known as 'the Teacher'

Matthew 7:28-29 "The crowds were amazed at his teaching because *He taught with authority, and not as one of their teachers*."

2. Disciples were commissioned

To Preach

Matthew 10:7 "As you go, *preach this message: 'The Kingdom of Heaven is near.'*"

Mark 16:15 "Go into all the world and *preach the good news to all creation*."

To Teach

Matthew 28:20 "Go and make disciples of all nations ... and *teaching them to obey all things ...*"

After Jesus ascended the disciples did as Jesus had told them to.

Acts 5:42 “Day after day ... they never stopped *teaching and proclaiming the good news.*”

3. We are commissioned

- ❖ We are all to share the good news and build others up
- ❖ Some are given gifts to teach and preach. Romans 12:6-7, Ephesians 4:11

B. THE LIFE OF THE TEACHER & PREACHER

1. Our life is the message

Jesus was ‘the Word made flesh’ John 1:14

We must live our message! Our whole life – the way we act, what we say, how we live all communicates a message.

2 Corinthians 3:2 “You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, *known and read by everybody.*”

1 Timothy 4:12-13 “Set an example for the believers in *speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.*” Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to *preaching* and to *teaching.*”

2. The message must continue to grow in us

2 Timothy 3:14 Paul’s words to Timothy were apt!

“But as for you, *continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of...*”

Be diligent	2 Timothy 2:15
Be prepared	2 Timothy 4:2-5

“Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.” 1 Timothy 4:16

C. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TEACHING & PREACHING

Teaching and preaching have many similarities and they are often linked together, but there are also differences.

Teach = ‘*didasko*’ the most common word used in the New Testament meaning *to give instruction.*

What is the purpose of God’s word in our lives according to 2 Timothy 3:15-17?

Preach = there are 2 main words used in the New Testament

- (i.) ‘*Euaggelidzo*’ means *to tell or announce the good news*
- (ii.) ‘*Kerusso*’ means *to proclaim, herald or preach*

What is the goal of preaching? See Mark 6:12 and Romans 10:14. The goal is that people will respond to the Word and apply it in their lives.

THE ART OF PREACHING



A. PURPOSE OF PREACHING

1. What is preaching?

Preaching is presenting God's Word to the whole man: *mind (convinced), heart (convicted), will (choose)*

The one preaching must learn how to *hear, listen or receive* God's message first!

1 Peter 4:11 "If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking *the very words of God.*"

2. What types of preaching are there?

There are many ways God's Word can be presented.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| (i) <i>Expository</i> | Studying a passage or going through a book of the Bible |
| (ii) <i>Doctrinal</i> | Teaching the doctrines of the faith |
| (iii) <i>Topical</i> | Teaching different topics from the Bible |
| (iv) <i>Biographical</i> | Studying a Bible character |
| (v) <i>Textual</i> | Preaching from a Bible verse |
| (vi) <i>Prophetical</i> | Revealing God's heart for the present and future |

B. PREPARATION FOR PREACHING

1. Prayer

'A man who would speak **for** God must learn **to** speak much to God.'

The first thing we need to know is: What does God wants to *say* and *do* .

How can you know this? You need to spend time in God's presence, asking Him to speak to you. Then it is important to meditate on the thoughts the Holy Spirit gives, allowing Him to bring relevant verses and illustrations to your mind. (Remember to never preach out of a reaction to something that has happened!)

2. Study

Begin to study the verse or passage the Lord has put in your heart. The anointing of the Holy Spirit does not mean we do not need to study! If we are going to preach well then we need to do our part.

(i) Two dangers

- ❖ Natural orator versus struggling orator
(Some people find it easy to speak in public, but the danger is to do so without really relying on the Holy Spirit. However if you find it difficult to speak publicly, you need to overcome your fear and trust that the Spirit will enable you.)
- ❖ Traditional approach versus Pentecostal approach
(The more traditional approach is often to rely on touching people's minds and the preacher depends on study, whereas the Pentecostal sometimes focuses on touching the heart and depending on the Holy Spirit, without much preparation Both are needed!)

(ii) Methods of study

- a.) Using the Scriptures - Study the verses in context *(Try various translations to help give you a good understanding of the passage.)*
- Look at parallel passages *(e.g. the gospels may record the same story with varying details.)*
 - See how words are used elsewhere *(Use cross-references and a concordance.)*
 - Take meaning literally unless clearly figurative
 - Interpret in harmony with rest of Scripture
- b.) Using other resources
- Commentaries
 - Dictionaries
 - Books

C. PLANNING FOR PREACHING

Before going any further, make sure you are clear about the *goal or aim* of your message. Now you are ready to plan your message. E.g. Building a house *begins with a plan.*

1. Why do you need a plan?(i) For your benefit

*Helps you develop your thoughts and keeps you on track.
Helps you keep the message in proportion.
Helps you hit the mark and say what God has put in your heart.*

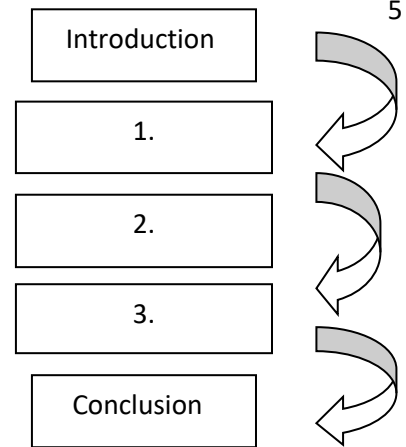
(ii) For benefit of listeners

*Helps the listeners understand your message better.
Helps them remember what you have said.
Your message will be more effective.*

2. What does a plan need?

- (i) **Unity** – *Each section should have something in common.*
- (ii) **Order** – *The message should also appeal to the mind & heart.*
- (iii) **Movement** – *You want to be going somewhere! To build.*

If you are confused in your thoughts, it will be confusing for those who listen as well!



HOW DO YOU PLAN?

A good message should have: *An introduction*
A body
A conclusion



1. INTRODUCTION

“We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” 2 Corinthians 10:5

- An introduction needs to:
- (i) *Be brief – draw people into the Word of God quickly*
 - (ii) *Get people’s attention – consider the audience and make it relevant*
 - (iii) *Lead into the main theme*

Don’t begin by apologising for your lack of preparation or inexperience! That does not honour the Lord.

Some suggestions: *You could use a short story, a poem or give a quote. Make reference to an occasion, or something from the news. Or you could mention the importance of the topic you are speaking on or read a suitable scripture.*

2. BODY

Most of your material will be in the body of the message. The body should be divided into points: 2-4 with a maximum of 7.

- Each point should be:
- (i) *A separate thought*
 - (ii) *Related to the main theme*
 - (iii) *Equal in length*
 - (iv) *Be linked together, but avoid saying ‘1, 2, 3’*
 - (v) *Given a heading or title.*
 - (vi) *Illustrated*

What could be included: Elaborate on the point you are making by:

- (i) *Historical events or background*
- (ii) *Use other verses*

- (iii) *Elaborate on the meaning of words*
- (iv) *Parallel passages*
- (v) *Application to everyday life – this is best threaded throughout the message, rather than just at the end*

3. ILLUSTRATIONS

Illustrations are like windows. *(They throw light on the meaning of what you are teaching.)* As you prepare ask the Holy Spirit to give you good illustrations.

Give some examples of illustrations: *Quotes, everyday examples, stories, testimonies including your own, visual aids like power-point or objects, things from nature, fiction, science or current affairs, humour, drama, statistics.*

4. CONCLUSION

You need to know where you are going: preaching has a purpose. You are preaching for a response to the word of God, so plan your conclusion.

There are different ways to conclude:

- (i) *Summarise or tie together*
- (ii) *Highlight the main point*
- (iii) *Give a challenge, preach for a decision*

Planning a message is like:

a. Growing fruit

Plant	<i>Message begins by being planted in your heart</i>
Grow	<i>Give time to meditate on the word so it grows in you</i>
Prune	<i>Just like you would prune or shape a tree, cut back what you want to say to 3 or 4 points</i>
Fruit	<i>Prayer helps prepare you and the listeners so the message will bear fruit</i>
Package fruit	<i>Prepare suitable illustrations so the word is understood</i>



b. Building a house

Front door	<i>Introduction</i>
Inside	<i>Body</i>
Rooms	<i>Points</i>
Windows	<i>Illustrations</i>
Back door	<i>Conclusion</i>



Once you have prepared your message it is good to go through it, so you can speak freely without reading your notes.

D. PRESENTATION OF PREACHING

1. Physical Aspects

- a.) Personal appearance - *Be neat, clean and don't draw attention to yourself.*
- b.) Body
- Posture - *Stand straight, don't lean over the pulpit or put your hands in your pockets. Be relaxed and move where relevant.*
- Eyes - *Learn to look at people, not down at your notes all the time. Don't look at the same people all the time, move your gaze around the group.*
- Hands - *Use your hands to emphasize but don't overdo it. Don't wring your hands or rub your hair or put your hands behind your back.*
- c.) Voice - *Speak clearly and open your mouth. Be careful not to drop your voice at the end of sentences. Learn to project your voice so those at the back can hear you. Vary your pitch, speed and volume.*
- d.) Use of words - *Use suitable words so your audience can understand. You don't have to impress people! Jesus spoke simply. Avoid using slang. Be serious when appropriate and use your microphone correctly if you have one.*

Some cautions: *Don't talk down to people or preach 'at' people
Don't scold
Don't exaggerate
Don't be long winded
Don't criticise others*

Develop your own style. Each of us has different abilities and gifts, a unique personality, so we will present God's Word in slightly different ways. Learn from others, but don't try to just be like them. God uses WHO you are.

2. Spiritual Aspects

a.) You need the anointing of the Holy Spirit

What is the anointing? *The anointing is not how loud you preach or the style you use to preach. Rather it is the Holy Spirit working in and through you to bring conviction and change in the lives of the listeners.*

How can I receive the anointing? *Some keys words for receiving and walking in the anointing are: humility, stillness, trust and dependence*

John 6:63 says, *"The Spirit gives life, the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life."*

b.) You need to have faith

We need to believe what we preach!

We need to believe that God will honour his Word.

Therefore: i.) *Put self aside. It is not about you, but about the Lord.*
ii.) *Don't be distracted or discouraged.*

"My word will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent." Isaiah 55:11

Summary

It is a privilege to teach and preach God's Word, whether it is to a small group, or a crowd. You don't have to follow someone else's style, just be yourself! However always remember that you are preaching on behalf of Jesus. As you study the Word of God yourself, ask the Holy Spirit to show you His thoughts, and how He wants you to present the truth. When you preach ask Him to anoint you, so that the Lord works through you to speak to the listeners and bring change in their lives. The Holy Spirit is the only One who can do that! The amazing thing is – He can use us! "It's not by might or by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord."