



**Principles of Preaching**  
**Teaching Notes**

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# Lesson 1

## Introduction

Today the student will begin learning the importance of preaching by starting with biblical definitions for preaching. Next, they will learn the purpose of preaching by looking at salvation, sanctification, and strengthening believers.

## Part 1 – The Importance of Preaching

- What is preaching?
  - O.T. terms (Nehemiah 8:1-8)
    - *Qohelet* – Preacher
    - *Basar* – To tell good news
    - *Qara* – To call or proclaim
    - *Qeria* – Preaching
  - N.T. terms (Luke 4:16; Acts 2:14)
    - *Euangelizo* – To announce good news
    - *Keryx* – Herald
    - *Kerysso* – To proclaim as a herald
    - *Diangelo* – To proclaim or publish abroad
    - *Katangelo* – To proclaim solemnly
  - Basic definition: Proclaiming God’s message to people.
    - God’s message is found in the Bible.
    - The preacher must take the truth of God’s message and pass it along to people without adding to or taking away from the message that God has spoken.
    - We are commanded to preach the Word (2 Timothy 4:2).

## Part 2 – The Purpose of Preaching

- Salvation (Romans 10:9-17, 1 Peter 1:23-25)
  - Mankind not only needs to be convicted of sin, but they also need to be pointed to the Savior. Preaching should point to Christ, who is “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). Preaching must stress the importance of conversion to Christ -- of being changed from a life of serving Satan to a life of serving Christ (Matthew 18:3; Acts 3:19; Ephesians 2:1-3; Colossians 1:13).
  - Preaching should be for the purpose of informing sinners what to do to be saved. This is the message that is preached in the book of Acts. When men asked what to do, the response was simple.
    - READ each of these passages: Acts 2:38; 8:5-12, 35-38.
    - ASK: “In each of these verses what is the message that is preached to sinners to tell them how to be saved?”
  - The same divine message of Acts needs to be proclaimed today! The good news of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ needs to be heralded (1Corinthians 15:1-4). The conditions for responding to the gospel need to be clearly explained:
    - Faith in Christ (John 8:24; Acts 26:18).
    - Repentance of sin (Acts 3:19, 17:30).

- Confession of faith in Christ (Acts 8:37; Romans 10:10).
- Baptism (Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:27).
- Sanctification (1 Thessalonians 2:13-14, 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
  - It has always been God’s purpose for His people to be conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29; 12:2). Paul himself demonstrated this principle (Galatians 2:20). His intense desire for those he converted to Christ is shown in Galatians 4:19.
  - This is the ultimate purpose of preaching -- to bring people into conformity with the likeness of Christ. This requires time and patience, and it is an on-going process (2 Corinthians 3:18).
- Strengthen believers (Psalm 119:28, Isaiah 41:10, Philippians 4:13)
  - It is not enough just to obey the primary commands of the gospel and become a Christian; one must be taught “to observe all things” (Matthew 28:20). After converting numerous people to the Lord and establishing congregations, Paul and Barnabas saw the need for confirming the disciples (Acts 14:22). To “confirm” means “to strengthen, ground, or stabilize” (cf. Acts 2:42).
  - Disciples were warned of going beyond what is written and not abiding in the doctrine of Christ (1 Corinthians 4:6; 2 John 9). They were exhorted to beware lest they be taken captive through philosophy and empty deceit (Colossians 2:8). They were to “hold fast” and “continue” (1 Corinthians 15:2; Colossians 1:23).
  - In order for this to be accomplished, preaching must include both doctrinal and practical matters. Christians need to be taught how to bear fruit and live appropriately (Galatians 5:22-26; Titus 2:11-12). Christians also need to be grounded in the fundamentals of the faith -- the existence and nature of God, the deity of Christ, the work of the Holy Spirit, the all-sufficiency of the gospel, the undenominational nature of the New Testament church, how one is saved and added to the church, and who, why, and how they are to worship.

### **Part 3 – Review and Discussion**

1. Define preaching. What does it mean to preach?
2. What is Paul saying in 2 Timothy 4:2?
3. What is the purpose of preaching?
4. Explain and list the bible verses for what the gospel message is.
5. What is sanctification and how does preaching encourage it?
6. Why is it important for preaching to include both doctrinal and practical matters?

## Lesson 2

### Introduction

Today the student will continue with the purpose of preaching by looking at conviction of sin, motivate to action, and explanation of scripture. They will also define what the message of the Bible is and what a preacher is.

### Part 1 – The Purpose of Preaching (Continued)

- Conviction of sin
  - Christ said that the Holy Spirit would convict the world of sin (John 16:8).
    - How does He convict people of sin?
      - Prior to His ascension, Jesus told the apostles to go out and preach the gospel (Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47). As a result of the preaching Christ, the people on Pentecost were “cut to the heart” and wanted to know what to do to be saved (Acts 2:37).
      - This New Testament example of conviction of sin was brought about by the preaching of the gospel.
  - The world today is still in need of being convicted of sin, for “there is none righteous, no, not one ... for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:10-11, 23)!
- Motivate to action
  - Be doers of the Word, and not hearers only (James 1:22).
  - Paul compares the Christian life to a race where everyone is in the race.
    - There are no benches for you to sit and watch the race. (1Corinthians 9:24-27)
- Explain the scriptures - Nehemiah 8:7, Acts chapter 7 (Stephen) and chapter 8 (Phillip)
  - Ezra, who was a priest and scribe, read the law of Moses to the people. He helped them to understand the law and make sense of it.
  - In Acts 7, Stephen’s sermon was taken from the Old Testament and his audience knew the passage well. But Stephen explained what it meant and how it applied to them.
  - In Acts 8:34 the Ethiopian eunuch asked Philip what this passage meant. Philip then explained the verse to him.
  - In 1 Timothy 4:13, Paul tells Timothy to “devote himself to public reading of the scripture and teaching.”

### Part 2 – The Message We Preach

- The message of the Bible comes from God.
  - All scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking and correcting and training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16).
  - The word of God is living and active (Hebrews 4:12).
    - God’s word is as relevant today as it was when it was written thousands of years ago.
- The Bible reveals God’s message about himself.
  - The Bible is God’s self-revelation. Through the Bible we learn who God is.
    - READ - Genesis 1:1, Jonah 4:2, John 1:1
    - ASK – What do each of these verses teach us about who God is?

- Redemption is the central theme of the message of the Bible. From the fall of man in Genesis to the close of Revelation God is continually redeeming people.
  - The O.T. speaks of the coming Messiah.
  - The N.T. speaks of the Christ who came and died on the cross.
  - Jesus came to seek and save that which is lost (Luke 19:10).

### **Part 3 – What is a Preacher?**

- The preacher is a duty or an office within the church (Ephesians 4:11-13).
  - Notice that the preacher serves the local church, along with the elders and teachers to equip the saints for service.
  - The preacher's duty is more than reaching the lost.
    - In 1 Thessalonians 2:9-10, Paul and his companions proclaimed the gospel.
    - In Titus 2:1, Paul tells Timothy to speak sound doctrine and then lists the things he is to tell. They all involve members of the church.
- The preacher is a herald of the good news of Jesus Christ.
  - Examples: John the Baptist, Peter, Paul, and others.
  - A preacher does not use flattering speech (1 Thessalonians 2:5-6).
  - The message should be God's word not man's (1 Thessalonians 2:13).
  - He is ready in season and out (2 Timothy 4:2).

### **Part 4 – Review and Discussion**

1. What is preaching?
2. How does preaching convict people of sin?
3. Who is it that does the convicting?
4. How does preaching motivate the listener to action?
5. What are the 6 purposes for preaching learned in Lessons 1 and 2?
6. Where does the message from the Bible come from? (2 Timothy 3:16)
7. What is the central theme of the message of the Bible?
8. What is a preacher?

## Lesson 3

### Introduction

Today the students will learn about 3 different types of preaching. What are the different types and when can they be used? What are their strengths and weaknesses?

### Part 1 – Types of Preaching

- Expository Sermons

This type of sermon unfolds a paragraph, or a "unit of thought", of Scripture.

- Most of the time an expository sermon includes two or more verses of Scripture.
  - The **theme** or overall **main point** of the passage formulates your proposition.
  - Your points (major and minor) are derived from this singular passage of Scripture.
  - You may illustrate or explain by using other Scripture passages.
- In expository preaching, the expositor digs into a paragraph from God's Word and pulls out significant, timeless truths.
- Consider this example of an expository sermon outline:

Text:       **Romans 12:1-2**

Title:       **“Full Surrender”**

Theme:      **BECAUSE OF GOD'S MERCY, YOU SHOULD FULLY SURRENDER YOUR LIFE TO GOD.**

Question:   What Does Full Surrender Mean?

**I. FULL SURRENDER IS: LETTING GOD HAVE YOUR LIFE (A Sacrificed Life)**

**A. WHAT KIND OF SACRIFICE DOES GOD WANT?**

1. A living sacrifice
2. A holy sacrifice
3. A acceptable sacrifice

**B. WHY SHOULD YOU GIVE SUCH A SACRIFICE?**

1. It is "your reasonable service" (Sacrifice is the logical, intelligent choice)

**II. FULL SURRENDER IS: LETTING GOD CHANGE YOUR LIFE (A Transformed Life)**

**A. THE ENEMY OF A TRANSFORMED LIFE: The World's Mold**

**B. THE ENTRANCE INTO A TRANSFORMED LIFE: A renewed mind**

**C. THE END RESULT OF A TRANSFORMED LIFE: The Will of God.**

- Textual Sermons

- This type of sermon usually develops a **single verse** of Scripture.
  - The **theme** and **main points** come directly from the verse.
  - The **minor** points may be developed from other Scripture passages.
- This form of sermon is generally good for: Preaching to audiences with **short attention spans** (children; elderly) -- Preaching at occasions other than church services (Ex: banquets, funerals, etc.)
- Consider this example of a textual sermon outline:

Text: **1 Corinthians 15:58**

Title: **"RESOLUTIONS" "Kuganizira"**

Theme: **GOD WANTS YOU TO MAKE FOUR RESOLUTIONS REGARDING YOUR SERVICE FOR JESUS CHRIST.**

**1. I WILL NOT QUIT IN MY SERVICE FOR CHRIST.**

"Be ye steadfast"

**2. I WILL NOT MOVE FROM MY SERVICE FOR CHRIST**

"Unmovable"

**3. I WILL NOT BECOME COMPLACENT IN MY SERVICE FOR CHRIST**

"Always abounding . . ."

**4. I WILL HAVE NO REGRETS IN MY SERVICE FOR CHRIST.**

". . . Not in vain"

• Topical Sermons

- This type of sermon develops a **topic** or **subject** that the preacher chooses.
  - Examples: prayer, holiness, separation, love, priorities, etc.
- This type of sermon requires the preacher to have an overall knowledge of the Bible and an ability to **pull together related passages** from different parts of the Bible to support the topic being preached. This skill is used in systematic theology. The use of a concordance or a topical Bible (Ex: Naves) is helpful in this type of sermon preparation.
  - Be careful to understand the context of every passage you use. It is easy to isogete, or read meaning into a text, in this style of preaching. Make sure you don't say something that Scripture isn't saying.
- Consider this example of a topical preaching outline:

Text: **Various Texts**

Title: **"Who is Jesus?"**

**1. He is God.**

- Genesis 2:26; John 1:1, 10:30; Philippians 2:6; Hebrews 9:22-28

**2. He is man.**

- Matthew 1:18-25, 4:1-11; Luke 8:22-25; John 1:14; Philippians 2:7

**Part 2 – Review and Discussion**

1. What are the 3 different types of preaching?
2. Explain what expository preaching is and give an example.
3. Explain what textual preaching is and give an example.
4. Explain what topical preaching is and give an example.

## Lesson 4

### Introduction

Today the student will learn how to prepare a sermon. There will be in-class group time to work on sermon notes.

### Part 1 – How to Prepare a Sermon

- Choose a Text
- Follow the 5 steps of the Interpretive Journey that you have learned in previous courses to discover the meaning of the text and to think about how to apply its truth to listeners. (For those who need a review, a summary of the Interpretive Journey is included at the end of this lesson.)
  - You need focus on these parts especially:
    - *Step 1*: Create a short, simple statement to explain the message that this text was teaching the original audience.
    - Be sure to consider questions like: Who was the author? When was it written? To whom was it written? What is the context of these verses?
    - *Step 3*: Write the Timeless Truth (or Truths) that you find in this text.
    - Remember this is present tense statement that explains the unchanging truth found in your text. This will be the theme of your sermon.
    - *Step 5*: Consider several different ways that the Timeless Truth can be applied to the lives of churches or individual Christians. Choose at least 2 or 3 of these to become your key applications.
- Decide whether the sermon should be expository, textual, or topical.
- Organize the information you learned in your study of the text to form an outline for your sermon.



## Part 2 – Practice

**Groups:** Divide up into small groups of about 3-4 students. Give the students 15-20 minutes for each of the following passages to follow the steps for preparing a sermon that they have learned in this lesson. When the time is finished, ask each group to share and explain their outlines.

- John 3:16
- Matthew 18-20
- I Peter 1:15

*Here is an example of an outline for John 3:16.*

Sermon Type: Expository  
Text: John 3:16  
Theme: Because of God’s love, you have hope for eternal life.

- I. Who does God love?
  - A. God loves the world.
    1. This includes all people, tribes, nations, and races. All of us were created in his image.
- II. How does God show his love?
  - A. He sent his Son to be the pure sacrifice for our sins.
    1. Romans 5:8, “But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
    2. John 1:29, “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”
- III. What is the result of God’s love?
  - A. We have a true hope of eternal life and forgiveness for our sins.
    1. John 3:16, “...whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”
    2. John 3:17, “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”
- IV. Application: What should we do when we hear this truth?
  - A. Believe it! And put all of your faith in Jesus alone to save you and give you life.
  - B. Worship God! Give God praise and thanksgiving for the love and mercy he has shown us.
  - C. Share it! Do not keep this good news to yourself. So many people are trying to find peace and life through doing good works or gaining power. Tell them that Jesus is the only One who can give them eternal life, hope, and peace.

## Part 3 – Interpretive Journey Review (if needed)

ASK: What are the five steps of the Interpretive Journey? What is the Key Question that goes with each step?

*Lead the students through this review of the 5 Steps and Key Questions quickly. They should be able to answer this with no problems.*

- Step One – Grasp the text in their town.
  - Key Question – What did the text mean to the original audience?
- Step Two – Measure the width of the river to cross.

- Key Question – What are the differences between the biblical audience and us?
- Step Three – Cross the Bridge of Timeless Truth
  - Key Question – What is the unchanging biblical principle in this passage?
- Step Four – Consult the biblical map.
  - Key Question – How does our timeless truth fit with the rest of the Bible?
- Step Five – Grasp the text in our town.
  - Key Question – How should individual Christians and churches live out the timeless truth in this passage?



## Lesson 5

### Introduction

Today the students will learn the different parts of the sermon. They will learn the importance of each of the parts. Next, they will learn how to deliver a sermon and will have class time to practice sermon delivery.

### Part 1 – Parts of a Sermon

- Introduction
  - Read the text.
  - Share some background information to help the listeners understand the situation.
  - Share the truths to be studied.
  - State the thesis statement. Explain to the listeners where you are going in this sermon.
- Body of the sermon
  - Truth number 1
    - Explain what truth number 1 meant when it was written; use scripture verses to help.
    - Explain what truth number 1 means now; use scripture verses to help.
    - Show how this truth applies to life here and now.
  - Truth number 2
    - Explain what truth number 2 meant when it was written; use scripture verses to help.
    - Explain what truth number 2 means now; use scripture verses to help.
    - Show how this truth applies to life here and now.
  - Truth number 3,4,5 etc. Repeat this process for all the important truths you are including in your sermon.
- Conclusion
  - Explain to the listeners where they came from.
  - Restate the thesis.
  - Restate the truths you covered.

### Part 2 - Sermon Delivery

- Vary your tone and volume.

You can add emphasis and draw attention to certain areas of the sermon by changing the tone and volume during delivery. You don't want to speak so softly that no one can hear you. However, you don't want to speak so loudly that people become annoyed and stop listening.
- Use analogies.

An analogy is a comparison between 2 or more ideas or objects. The idea in preaching is to take an idea or concept that isn't so easily understood and compare it to something that the listener is familiar with to help them understand the concept. For example: Explain "to repent" by using elephants and you on the same path at the same time. You wouldn't walk around them or wait for them to move, you would turn around and run back the way you came. This is taking a concept like "repent" and making it come to life by using an everyday reality so that the members can make a connection and better understand the concept. Sebenzesani mafanizo.

- Read from the text.  
Open the Bible and read from it. This allows people to see that you are preaching from God's word and not your own.
  - Examples:
    - Nehemiah: Nehemiah 8:1-8
    - Jesus: Luke 4:14-19
- Application is the most important part of the sermon.  
You must explain how the truth of God's word that was written more than 2,000 years ago applies to your members here and now. How is the truth of God's word relevant for them and their lives in Mandombe, or Chidada or wherever they live? You must explain how the truth of the sermon affects them as a fisherman, or shop owner, or boat driver, or a mom who stays at home and takes care of the kids, etc.
  - Example: John 3:16 The truth of this passage isn't just for rich people or people who live in the city or people who are educated. This truth affects everyone everywhere because God loved you personally right where you live no matter what you do for a living.

### **Part 3 – Practice**

Instruct the students to gather into the same groups they were in for the practice in Lesson 4. Each group will choose one of the sermon outlines they created in that lesson to do two things. First, they should add an introduction and a conclusion to their outlines. Second, they should discuss practical ways they preach this message well (sermon delivery). Allow the groups 20-30 minutes to work on their outlines, then ask each group to explain their complete outline and share ideas for how they would deliver the sermon effectively.

#### *Note for the instructor:*

The outline the groups prepared in lesson 4 will be the body of the new complete sermon outline. They only need to add an introduction and a conclusion, including the details that were taught in part one of this lesson. For the sermon delivery, encourage groups to think about creative ways to state their important points, analogies or examples they might use to help people understand, and places that might want to speak louder or softer or faster or slower to keep listeners interested as they preach.

### **Part 4 – Review and Discussion**

1. What are the parts of a sermon?
2. Why is it important to share the truths with the listener before you begin preaching?
3. Why is it important to use local analogies when explaining biblical concepts?
4. Why is it important to read from the Bible?
5. What is the most important part of the sermon and why?

## **Part 5 – Final Exam Preview**

Explain to the students what will be required for their final exam. The exam includes two parts:

The first part is a written exam. Each student will take the written exam individually. A score of 50% is needed to pass. Each of the questions on the final exam will be taken from the review questions at the end of each lesson.

The second part of the exam is a group project. The group will work together for 30-45 minutes study an assigned passage from the New Testament and create a detailed sermon outline. They can talk together, use their Bibles and study Bibles, or use their class notes to complete the assignment. Smart phones and computers should not be allowed. The instructor will observe how well the group follows the five steps of the Interpretive Journey and the clarity of their preaching outline. This assignment will receive a “Pass” or “Fail” grade.

Each student must pass both the written exam and the group project to complete this course successfully.

# Principles of Preaching

## Final Exam

1. Define preaching. What does it mean to preach?
2. What are the 6 purposes of preaching?
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3. Where does the message from the Bible come from? (2 Timothy 3:16)
4. What is the central theme of the message of the Bible?
5. List the 3 types of preaching and explain what each one is.

# Interpreting the New Testament

## Final Exam – MASTER COPY

Correct answers are in **bold letters**. Each correct answer is worth one point. This exam is worth a total of 20 points.

1. Define preaching. What does it mean to preach? (3 points)  
**Basic Definition: Preaching is proclaiming God's message to people. God's message is found in the Bible. The preacher must take the truth of God's message and pass it along to people without adding to or taking away from the message that God has spoken.**
2. What are the 6 purposes of preaching? (6 points)
  - **Salvation**
  - **Sanctification**
  - **Strengthen Believers**
  - **Conviction of Sin**
  - **Motivate to Action**
  - **Explain the Scriptures**
3. Where does the message from the Bible come from? (2 Timothy 3:16) (2 points)  
**The message of the Bible comes from God himself.**  
**"All scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking and correcting and training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16).**
4. What is the central theme of the message of the Bible? (3 points)  
**Redemption is the central theme of the message of the Bible. From the fall of man in Genesis to the close of Revelation God is continually redeeming people.**
5. List the 3 types of preaching and explain what each one is. (6 points)
  - **Expository: This type of sermon unfolds a paragraph, or a "unit of thought", of Scripture. Most of the time an expository sermon includes two or more verses of Scripture.**
  - **Textual: This type of sermon usually develops a single verse of Scripture. This form of sermon is generally good for: [1] Preaching to audiences with short attention spans (children; elderly) -- Preaching at occasions other than church services (Ex: banquets, funerals, etc.)**
  - **Topical: This type of sermon develops a topic or subject that the preacher chooses. This type of sermon requires the preacher to have an overall knowledge of the Bible and an ability to pull together related passages from different parts of the Bible to support the topic being preached.**

## **Principles of Preaching Group Project**

For this part of the final exam students must work as a group to study a passage from the New Testament following the steps of the Interpretive Journey, then they must use what they learned from their study to create a complete sermon outline. Select one of the passages listed below for the student project. Instruct them to talk through all five steps of the Interpretive Journey and every part of the sermon outline together. The group should be allowed 45-60 minutes to complete this study. They should write down the following notes to show the work they have done:

- (Step One) Write a short, simple statement to summarize the message that God was revealing to the original audience.
- (Step Three) Write the timeless truth (or truths) that you discovered from studying this passage.
- (Step Five) Write two or three specific applications of your timeless truth that you would teach to others in your church.
- Sermon Outline:
  - Theme
  - Introduction
  - Body
    - Main points
    - Important explanations, examples, or analogies
    - Applications
  - Conclusion

Passages for Interpretive Journey Group Project:

- John 14:5-6
- Ephesians 2:8-9
- 1 Peter 1:13-15

### **How to grade the group project:**

After giving the students full instructions, watch them closely for the entire time of the project. Try to give as little help as possible; encourage them to follow the steps of the Interpretive Journey and the parts of a sermon outline as they have learned. They are free to use their Bibles and any notes they have, but no cell phones or computers are allowed.

The group will be graded as a whole with either a 'Pass' or 'Fail.' If you see that everyone in the group has used the steps of the Interpretive Journey, that they show some ability to interpret the passage in a faithful and accurate way, and that they have created a clear preaching outline, then award them a grade of 'Pass' for their work on this project.