

“You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you possess eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about Me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life” (John 5:39-40, TNIV).

Process of Preaching =

- Choosing a Text/Theme
- Listening in Community
- Listening Alone
- Exegesis
- Focus/Function
- Choosing a Format/Style
 - *Four Pages of a Sermon* – Paul Scott Wilson
 - Bad news in the text
 - Good news in the text
 - Bad news today
 - Good news today
 - First Person – choosing a voice from which to see and share
 - Inductive – discovering together as you go
 - Deductive – this is where we’re going, this is where we are, this is where we went
 - *The Homiletical Plot or The Sermon* – Eugene Lowry
 - Oops
 - Ugh
 - Aha
 - Whee
 - Yeah
 - *Communicating for a Change* – Andy Stanley and Lane Jones
 - Me
 - We
 - God
 - You
 - We
 - Cadenced – carefully crafted with poetry and repetition
 - Conversational – as though you’re talking to the person next to you
- Less is More – Does this move along the message?
- Visuals – Computer Presentation, Objects, Demonstration
- Connect Next Steps
- Evaluation – Constructive Feedback

Luke 24:13-35 (Today's NIV)

On the Road to Emmaus

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹ "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Practical Steps for Exegesis – determining the author’s intended meaning (versus Eisegesis – reading into the text)

Ten Steps for English Exegesis (from www.biblicaltraining.org)

1. Identify the Genre (the Literary Form) – determines how you interpret that passage
2. Get the Big Picture: Establish the Historical and Literary Context – read the book or letter through as a whole, identifying central themes. In addition to reading the text yourself, you can use Bible introductions, commentaries, Bible dictionaries, Bible handbooks, to confirm or challenge the discoveries you’re making regarding themes
3. Develop a "Thesis Statement" – includes the subject (what the topic of the specific passage is) and compliment (what the passage says about it)
4. Outline the Progress of Thought in the Passage – What are the steps in the narrative or logical argument?
5. Consult Secondary Sources (a Good Commentary) on Your Passage – www.blueletterbible.org
 - a. Types of commentaries – Devotional, Homiletical, Expository, Technical/Critical
 - b. Different commentary series: Expository = Expositors Bible Commentary, a twelve-volume set, over the whole Bible. The New International Commentary, the NIC. The Tyndale Old Testament and New Testament commentary, the New International Biblical Commentary, the Anchor Bible Commentary, the New Central Bible Commentary, the Baker Exegetical Commentary, NIV application commentary; Technical = International Critical Commentary, the Word Biblical Commentary, Hermeneia and the New International Greek Testament Commentary
 - c. 5 tips for using commentaries. 1. Give the text priority. 2. Do an inductive study of the passage first. 3. Consult more than one. 4. Beware of just looking for the one that agrees with you. 5. Watch for theological bias
6. Analyze Syntactical Relationships – examine the sentences and how they relate to each other. What are the main clauses and how do the subordinate clauses function
7. Analyze Key Terms and Themes – do word studies. Use a concordance.
8. Resolve Interpretive Issues and Problems – textual, genre identification, word meaning, syntactical, historical questions – which way will you choose to interpret these?
9. Evaluate Your Results From the Perspective of Wider Contextual and Theological Issues – context of the book as a whole, the NT, the OT, entire Scripture
10. Summarize Your Results – may need to revise thesis statement or progression of the text (outline)

Devotional/Emotional Reading (Devo/Emo)

Start and end your time with prayer. In the middle, read through a Scripture passage three different times. The first time, listen for a phrase or word that stands out to you from the text. The second time, pay attention to what emotion you feel as you read the passage and how this emotion connects with emotions you feel in your life today. Here is a sample list of emotions below. Finally, read it through again (or a smaller portion of it that has your significant phrase in it), and listen for how God is inviting you to respond today. If you don't hear God saying anything to you in particular, don't worry, that's okay too. Think of someone you could share the verse with today. The three readings of the passage could also be done in a group setting, pausing each time to give people silence for focusing on their phrase, emotion, or invitation, and, for some, taking time to share those with the group. For more, see The Leadership Institute, www.tli.cc.

Sample list of emotions

Happy

Blissful
Delighted
Enthusiastic
Excited
Glad
Gleeful
Grateful
Joyful

Afraid

Anxious
Fearful
Horrified
Nervous
Panicked
Scared
Shaky
Terrified

Playful

Adventurous
Childlike
Creative
Free
Lighthearted
Lively
Spontaneous
Whimsical

Sad

Discouraged
Disheartened
Down
Gloomy
Hurt
Lonely
Melancholy

Loving

Affectionate
Compassionate
Friendly
Nurturing
Tender
Trusting
Warm

Confused

Ambivalent
Bewildered
Conflicted
Perplexed
Torn
Troubled
Uneasy

Angry

Agitated
Bitter
Enraged
Exasperated
Furious
Irritated
Mad
Resentful

Depressed

Burned out
Dejected
Despondent
Helpless
Hopeless
Listless
Weary
Withdrawn

Peaceful

Calm
Contented
Relaxed
Quiet
Satisfied
Serene
Tranquil

Make It Your Own

Take the scripture and make it personal. Read it as though God – Father, Son, Spirit – is speaking directly to you, using your name. After reading the passage, you can substitute he, she, you, we, or us with your name. Write it that way and read it out loud. You may want to write a letter from God to you based on the text or write a letter from you back to God. In some circles, this is called an Augustinian-type prayer. If you are an NF on the Myers-Briggs personality test, you may find that this one connects with you the most.

Here's an Example using the very familiar passage of John 3:16-17, but making it personal to me: "For God so loved Raewyn that He gave His only begotten Son, that Raewyn should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn Raewyn, but that she through Him might be saved." Dear God, thanks so much for Your incredible love for me, for the whole world!

Been There, Scene That

In this tool, you will imagine yourself within the story – seeing the sights, hearing the sounds, smelling the smells, tasting the tastes, touching your surroundings. Using your imagination, you relive the event. Which character in the story do you most identify with? If it's a story from the gospels, How does Jesus treat that character? What is Jesus saying to me today? If not, How does God relate to people in the story? What is God saying to me today? In some circles, this is called an Ignatian-type prayer. If you are an SJ on the Myers-Briggs personality test, you may find this particularly meaningful.

Digesting the Text

This is an opportunity to dissect the text and really digest it. For this one, I highly recommend printing out a copy of the text. Get out your pen, maybe even some colored pencils, and get ready to have a conversation with the text. You could be circling and underlining. Notice how the text is put together by taking it apart and recognizing parallels, phrases, emphases, etc...

Scripture Meditation and Memory

The following tips are adapted from *Scripture Memory Made Easy*, by Mark Water.

What to do before you start:

1. Pray – Ask God to help you.
2. Be Positive – You *can* memorize.
3. Choose an accurate translation – the verses here are in the NKJV – and stick with it.
4. Choose a time – whenever is best for you
5. Use memory cards – 3 x 5 index cards or blank business cards work well
6. Remember the goal is to become more and more like Jesus
7. Do what the Word says

Plan for each week:

Day 1 = Review all verses

Day 2 = Learn verse 1

Day 3 = Review all verses

Day 4 = Learn verse 2

Day 5 = Review this week's verses

How to learn a verse:

1. Read the whole verse out loud
2. Pray to understand its meaning for you
3. Break the verse into smaller parts
 - a. Write verse on card in those shorter phrases
 - b. Only write one verse per card with the reference
 - c. Write the reference a second time on the back of the card
4. Say the first phrase with the reference, then the first and second phrase with the reference, then the first and second and third phrases with the reference, etc...
5. Say by heart just the Bible verse 3 times
6. Say by heart the Bible verse with the reference

Additional Tips:

Use your imagination – picture the scene, think of word associations

Try for 100% accuracy when reviewing verses. It will help you remember them in the future.

One way to check how you're doing is to write out your verses on paper and then check them.

Pick a partner who you can review with and encourage.