

A Sermon is Born Lesson Plan

James Miller

Lesson Purpose: To gain tools for navigating the phases of sermon preparation

Overview: The greatness of the sermon is in the message. This lesson traces the phases of sermon preparation through conception, gestation, and delivery, recognizing, however, that life comes only through the Spirit.

Opening: Think of one of your most creative endeavors. How was the idea conceived? How was it developed? How did it actually come to pass? Share with the group.

Scripture Reading: The sermon opens the word of God each Sunday morning. This scripture recounts the Word of God becoming flesh. What happened next was the climax of the great message preachers share. Read John 1:1-14.

Mini Lecture: *A Sermon is Born*—Distribute the note taking sheets and show the mini lecture.

Exercises:

Exercise 1: Clipboard Starts

- Label five sheets of paper:
 - Illustrations
 - Daily Scripture Readings
 - Insights
 - Rhema
 - Personal Testimonies
- Spend 10 minutes thinking and recording ideas on these papers about sermons you may want to preach.
- Share ideas with each other.

Exercise 2: Pray and Ponder

- Write the following questions to God on a paper:
 - Which ideas on my “clipboards” do you want me to spend more time thinking about?
 - What are you doing in our congregation?
 - What are you doing in me?
 - What theological deficits do you want to correct in me? In our church?
- Think about these questions, listen to God, and jot down ideas.
- Share with the group.

Exercise 3: Inductive and Deductive

- Write a paragraph using either an inductive or a deductive approach.
- Read your paragraph to the class, having them identify which approach you used.

Exercise 4: Release from Bondage

- People are tempted into their unique sets of bondages. What type of bondage (fear, anxiety, self-doubt, self-deprecation, guilt) tends to hamper you in ministry?
- Share this with the group and ask for prayer.

Closing

- Read (or sing) a few verses from the following song to close.

Lord, speak to me that I may speak
 In living echoes of thy tone.
 As thou has sought so let me seek
 Thy erring children, lost and lone.

O, lead me, Lord, that I may lead
 The wandering and the wavering feet.
 O feed me, Lord, that I may feed
 Thy hungering ones with manna sweet.

O, strengthen me that while I stand
 Firm on the rock and strong in thee,
 I may stretch out a loving hand
 To wrestlers with the troubled sea.

O, teach me, Lord, that I may teach
 The precious things thou dost impart;
 And wing my words, that they may reach
 The hidden depths of many a heart.

O, give thine own sweet rest to me,
 That I may speak with soothing power
 A word in season, as from thee
 To weary ones in needful hours

O, fill me with thy fullness Lord.
 Until my very heart o'erflow
 In kindling thought and glowing word.
 Thy love to tell, thy praise to show.

O, use me, Lord, use even me,
 Just as thou wilt and when, and where
 Until thy blessed face I see.
 Thy rest, thy joy, thy glory share.