

## How I Prepare a Sermon Lesson Plan

Tim Yoder

**Lesson Purpose:** To equip preachers to move through the steps of sermon preparation

**Overview:** Preaching is a serious calling. But this lesson shows that with the help of the Holy Spirit and attention to the steps of honing a sermon, preaching can be enjoyable and rewarding.

**Opening:** Think about a sermon that impacted you. Who preached the sermon? What was the topic? What were your life circumstances when you heard it? Why do you think this sermon impacted you? Share this sermon experience with the group.

**Scripture Reading:** In his letter to Timothy, Paul instructs Timothy in the high calling of preaching the word. Listen in to these instructions found in I Timothy 4:11-16.

**Mini Lecture:** *How I Prepare a Sermon*—Distribute the note taking sheet and show the mini lecture.

### Exercises:

#### Exercise 1: Topic Selection

- Draw three columns on your paper and head them
  - Needs of the Church
  - Cultural Messages Impacting the Church
  - Direction for the Church
- Think and pray. Then make a list under each heading.
- Share with the group.

#### Exercise 2: Exploring the Internet

- Spend 10 minutes exploring online Bible resources
  - [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org)
  - [biblehub.com](http://biblehub.com)
  - [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com)
- Make a list of any other sites you have found helpful.
- Share sites and ideas for use with the group.

#### Exercise 3: Illustrator

- Choose a biblical concept or a specific short text.
- Think about other fields of study in regard to this concept or text. What in nature or the way people live or stories you know or cultural expressions (the arts, sports, literature, movies) could help people understand this concept or text?
- Share your ideas with the group and ask others for ideas for your text or concept.

#### Exercise 4: Theology into Practice

- As a group, choose a quality of God (such as mercy or might or omniscience).
- As a group, see how many ways you can finish this sentence in practical, everyday living ways: *Because God is \_\_\_\_\_, I \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Closing:** Pray together, thanking God for his word and asking God to help you clearly and creatively share his word.