

## MESSAGE PREPARATION WORKSHEET

Scripture Passage:

### Orientation

Teaching God's Word is a spiritual exercise, not merely a pedagogical one. Pray for clarity, wisdom, discernment. Pick a central verse to meditate upon. Rest in these truths:

*"No prophecy of scripture ever comes about by the prophet's own imagination, for no prophecy was ever borne of human impulse; rather, men carried along by the Holy Spirit spoke from God." 2 Pet 1:20*

*"For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any double-edged sword, piercing even to the point of dividing soul from spirit, and joints from marrow; it is able to judge the desires and thoughts of the heart." Hebrews 4:12*

### STEP 1: Exegesis (critical interpretation that comes out of the words of a text)

Read through the text five times in at least two translations.

#### 10 Major Observations

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

#### Important Word Studies

## Key Insights from Commentaries

### Essence of the Passage

WHO:

WHAT:

WHERE:

WHEN:

WHY:

HOW:

### Exegetical Thesis

**Subject (noun):**

**Complement (begins with verb):**

**Thesis Statement:**

### Outline

*Write an outline in logical, parallel fashion (not just random details in outline form).*

## **STEP 2: Theology (biblical truth about who God is)**

### Context Analysis

Message of surrounding chapters:

Message of entire book:

### Theological Themes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

### Questions to Explore

Are these themes present in other biblical passages/books? Which ones and how are they similar/different? List out pertinent cross references.

How does this passage affect Christian theology as a whole?

## Theological Thesis

**Original Thesis Statement** (from Step 1):

**Edited Thesis Statement:**

*(It should be broad – not overly specific to the passage at hand – and timeless.)*

Update your outline from Step 1 to make sure that it is broad & timeless.

## **STEP 3: Homiletics (the art of communicating God's truth to God's people)**

### Audience Analysis

What do they need to know?

What do they struggle with?

How far are they in their spiritual maturity?

How do they need to change their thinking or their behavior?

What kind of encouragement do they need?

### Relevant Touchpoints

*Try to incorporate at least 3 relevant touchpoints, including images/poems/historical characters/personal stories/songs/biblical characters.*

1.

2.

3.

### Application

Personal: How do I need to change/grow?

Write a list of possible applications for this audience.

Prayerfully condense it to 1-2 applications:

1.

2.

**Transfer your outline from Step 1 (edited in Step 2) to a new document. Add in the touchpoints and applications from Step 3.**

**Write your manuscript.**

**Read through your message out loud 2-3 times, noting places where you need to change wording, order, touchpoints, etc. If possible, practice your message before a trusted friend/family member and listen to feedback.**

## **Re-orientation**

**Teaching God's Word is an opportunity for worship. Rest in these truths:**

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*"For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any double-edged sword, piercing even to the point of dividing soul from spirit, and joints from marrow; it is able to judge the desires and thoughts of the heart." Hebrews 4:12*