

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

“The supreme work of the Christian minister is the work of preaching. This is a day in which one of our great perils is that of doing a thousand little things to the neglect of the one thing, which is preaching.”

JOHN BROADUS

One of the keys to better preaching is better preparation. This workbook is designed to help you craft messages that connect with your congregation. Use four pages each time you need to prepare a message. Each “chapter” is a different message.

PAGE ONE: BUILD THE BOXES

This worksheet will help you starting thinking about the focus and goal of the message. Before you write, use this sheet to plan.

PAGE TWO: CRAFT A STICKY STATEMENT

Once you know the direction of a message, use this worksheet to brainstorm a memorable bottom line. When you craft a statement that sticks, you’ll be ready to repeat it throughout the message.

PAGE THREE: SCRIBBLE NOTES AND THOUGHTS

Write down verses, stories, notes and thoughts as you begin to craft your message.

PAGE FOUR: WRITE YOUR OUTLINE

Pull it all together in a simple outline.

seven step **message prep**

***FILL UP FIRST**

1 START WITH SCRIPTURE

2 BUILD THE BOXES

3 CREATE STICKY STATEMENTS

4 WRITE THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES

5 ADD STORIES, TENSION & TRANSITIONS

6 CRAFT THE CONCLUSION

7 PRACTICE & FEEDBACK

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MESSAGE TITLE

MAIN TEXT

What is the single most persuasive idea I want to convey?

Why am I the one to communicate this?

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What does my audience currently think?

What do I want them to do?

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Is there a word picture of metaphor?

i.e. You are the light of the world

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Can I use a rhyme to make it memorable?

i.e. I before E except after C

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Can I echo words or phrases to help it stick?

i.e. forgiven people forgive

A

Will alliteration drive it home?

i.e. your soul is more important than your stuff

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Can I contrast two phrases, words or ideas?

i.e. whoever finds his life will lose it

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Is there a hook you can repeat again & again?



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Can I echo words or phrases to help it stick?

i.e. forgiven people forgive

A

Will alliteration drive it home?

i.e. your soul is more important than your stuff

C

Can I contrast two phrases, words or ideas?

i.e. whoever finds his life will lose it

H

Is there a hook you can repeat again & again?



The background features a light grey dotted pattern. A large, light grey triangle is positioned on the right side, pointing towards the top right. Several thin, dark grey lines are scattered across the page, some intersecting the triangle and others extending across the dotted area.

think

“I have a conviction that no sermon is ready for preaching – not ready for writing out – until we can express its theme in a short, pregnant sentence as clear as crystal.”

J. H. Howett

build the **boxes**

MESSAGE TITLE

MAIN TEXT

What is the single most persuasive idea I want to convey?

Why am I the one to communicate this?

1

2

What does my audience currently think?

What do I want them to do?

3

4

craft a **sticky statement**

P

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i.e. You are the light of the world

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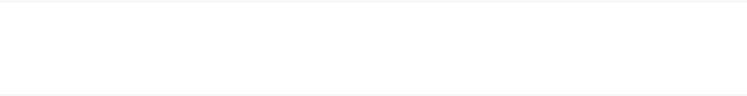
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notes



A series of horizontal lines spanning the width of the page, providing a template for writing notes.



















