

New Lead Pastor Cohort

Topic:
Series and Sermon Development

Guest Presenter:
Pastor Joe Wittwer

“Most pastors underestimate the value of their preaching. They are just doing laps from week to week, not taking their church anywhere. One of the best gifts you can give your church is to become a better preacher.”

1. Understand the value of your voice.

What's the most important thing you do each week?

1. Understand the value of your voice.

- Annually: a week for crafting a plan for the year.
- Weekly: set aside Monday and Tuesday to study and write the message.

1. Understand the value of your voice.

Please use your platform to take your people somewhere.

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Please use your platform to take your people somewhere.

- What vision do I want to cast?
- What values do I want to raise and celebrate?
- What practices do I want to encourage?
- What truths do I want people to believe?

1. Understand the value of your voice.

So first: understand the value. Treat this like it's important. It is!

2. Craft a plan.

How do you decide what to teach?

2. Craft a plan.

I want the long-term plan to offer a balanced diet.

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Expository and topical

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Expository and topical

Grace and faith

2. Craft a plan.

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Expository and topical

Grace and faith

Recurring themes

Recurring themes:

- Vision: at least once a year.
- Relationship with God: every year.
- PBJ/Spiritual practices: every year.
- Relationships with others: every year.
- Money: every 2-3 years.

Recurring themes:

- Sex: every 4 years.
- Work: every few years.
- Emotions: every few years.
- Future: every few years.
- Apologetics and theology: every few years.

Hot issues:

- Race.
- Me Too.
- LGBTQ issues, gay marriage, gender dysphoria.
- Politics.
- Abortion.
- Poverty.

2. Craft a plan.

Big Idea: craft a plan—a long term plan.

2. Craft a plan.

Three important values before sermon prep.

First, pray first.

2. Craft a plan.

Three important values before sermon prep.

First, pray first.

Second, remember you are teaching God's word.

2. Craft a plan.

Three important values before sermon prep.

First, pray first.

Second, remember you are teaching God's word.

Third, the goal is life change.

3. Prepare the message.

Study, think, map, story.

3. Prepare the message.

A. Study deeply.

3. Prepare the message.

A. Study deeply—Expository.

- Read it through slowly in several translations.
- Observe—Interpret—Apply.
- Ask questions.
- Live inside the text.
- Use resources.

3. Prepare the message.

A. Study deeply—Topical.

- The process is the same, just with a different starting point. I begin not with a single text, but with a global Biblical word study.
- Read through every verse in context, and begin to sort them by theme, idea or subject—grouping common ideas together.

3. Prepare the message.

A. Study deeply.

B. Think clearly.

3. Prepare the message.

A. Study deeply.

B. Think clearly.

1. Think comprehensively.

3. Prepare the message.

A. Study deeply.

B. Think clearly.

1. Think comprehensively.

2. Think sequentially.

3. Prepare the message.

A. Study deeply.

B. Think clearly.

1. Think comprehensively.

2. Think sequentially.

3. Think ahead.

3. Prepare the message.

A. Study deeply.

B. Think clearly.

1. Think comprehensively.

2. Think sequentially.

3. Think ahead.

4. Think practically.

3. Prepare the message.

A. Study deeply.

B. Think clearly.

1. Think comprehensively.

2. Think sequentially.

3. Think ahead.

4. Think practically.

Pro tip: Try giving someone a clear 3 minute summary of your message.

3. Prepare the message.

A. Study deeply.

B. Think clearly.

C. Map it.

3. Prepare the message.

A. Study deeply.

B. Think clearly.

C. Map it.

Big idea: the outline serves as a road map for your people and smart sequencing for you.

3. Prepare the message.

- A. Study deeply.
- B. Think clearly.
- C. Map it.
- D. Story it.

3. Prepare the message.

- A. Study deeply.
- B. Think clearly.
- C. Map it.
- D. Story it.

My rule of thumb is that I want at least one good story or illustration for every big idea or point.

3. Prepare the message.

D. Story it.

First, Jesus taught with stories.

3. Prepare the message.

D. Story it.

First, Jesus taught with stories.

Second, stories are windows on truth.

3. Prepare the message.

D. Story it.

First, Jesus taught with stories.

Second, stories are windows on truth.

Third, stories make ideas memorable.

3. Prepare the message.

D. Story it.

First, Jesus taught with stories.

Second, stories are windows on truth.

Third, stories make ideas memorable.

Fourth, stories let people come up for air.

3. Prepare the message.

D. Story it.

Pro tip: where to find good illustrations.

4. Craft the message.

4. Craft the message.

First, write an interactive plan.

4. Craft the message.

First, write an interactive plan.

Second, write an extemporaneous outline.

4. Craft the message.

First, write an interactive plan.

Second, write an extemporaneous outline.

Third, write a full manuscript.

4. Craft the message.

First, write an interactive plan.

Second, write an extemporaneous outline.

Third, write a full manuscript.

Pros to using a manuscript

Cons to using a manuscript

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