

PREACHING FIELD TOOL

Sermon Series Planning Workbook

Plan enough to lead. Stay free enough to pastor.

Use this workbook for the next four to six weeks. Keep the wide horizon light and deepen the detail as each sermon approaches.

1. Name the pastoral burden

CONGREGATIONAL NEED

What does our church need to understand, trust, practice, or become?

BURDEN SENTENCE

Our church needs to see that... / learn how to...

2. Choose the textual path

PRIMARY TEXTS

Which passages will carry the series?

SERIES PURPOSE

What should be clearer or different when the series ends?

TEXTUAL MOVEMENT

What tension, promise, command, warning, response, or hope shapes the arc?

PASTORAL GUARDRAIL

What must we avoid forcing the text to say?

SERIES ARCHITECTURE

Sketch the Series Arc

Give each week a distinct job so the congregation is taken somewhere, not merely given related sermons.

WEEK	PRIMARY TEXT	WEEKLY JOB	INTENDED RESPONSE
1			
2			
3			
4			

NEAR-HORIZON PLAN

Weekly Sermon Briefs

Complete one brief for each of the next six sermons. Revise it as study and pastoral discernment deepen.

Week 1

DATE

PRIMARY TEXT

SERIES CONNECTION

CENTRAL CLAIM

Because this text reveals...

SERMON QUESTION

What question must this sermon answer?

RESPONSE

Our congregation should...

Week 2

DATE

PRIMARY TEXT

SERIES CONNECTION

CENTRAL CLAIM

Because this text reveals...

SERMON QUESTION

What question must this sermon answer?

RESPONSE

Our congregation should...

Week 3

DATE

PRIMARY TEXT

SERIES CONNECTION

CENTRAL CLAIM

Because this text reveals...

SERMON QUESTION

What question must this sermon answer?

RESPONSE

Our congregation should...

NEAR-HORIZON PLAN

Weekly Sermon Briefs, continued

Weeks four through six. Keep every claim close to the text and every response concrete enough to practice.

Week 4

DATE	PRIMARY TEXT	SERIES CONNECTION
CENTRAL CLAIM <i>Because this text reveals...</i>	SERMON QUESTION <i>What question must this sermon answer?</i>	RESPONSE <i>Our congregation should...</i>

Week 5

DATE	PRIMARY TEXT	SERIES CONNECTION
CENTRAL CLAIM <i>Because this text reveals...</i>	SERMON QUESTION <i>What question must this sermon answer?</i>	RESPONSE <i>Our congregation should...</i>

Week 6

DATE	PRIMARY TEXT	SERIES CONNECTION
CENTRAL CLAIM <i>Because this text reveals...</i>	SERMON QUESTION <i>What question must this sermon answer?</i>	RESPONSE <i>Our congregation should...</i>

PREPARATION RHYTHM

Protect the Work Behind the Sermon

Work backward from the preaching date. Decide what ready means at each stage.

STAGE	READY MEANS	TARGET DATE	ACTUAL DATE
Text work	Context, structure, and key questions understood	_____	_____
Pastoral focus	Congregational need and sermon question named	_____	_____
Structure	Central claim and movement are clear	_____	_____
Draft	Language, illustrations, and response developed	_____	_____
Review	Delivery refined and team details confirmed	_____	_____

Monthly plan review

KEEP

What remains faithful and useful in the current plan?

COORDINATE

Who needs updated texts, dates, titles, or response plans?

CHANGE

What needs to move, deepen, shorten, or be removed?

PROTECT

What preparation time or recovery margin must be defended?

Review the series for faithfulness, formation, and wiser preparation - not merely applause or online attention.

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