

## ***SERMON PLANNER EXPLANATION***

### ***FOR NEW CHURCH PLANTS***

#### **1. Present Holy Scripture verses**

Readers should be given the passage a week before. They should read the passage 3 times at home prior to the service for good fluent pronunciation and voice intonation. Checkup mid-week with a friendly and encouraging prayer. You want God honoring quality.

Announce reference minimally 3 times.

Assist by referring to **page** numbers or provide general directions.

Wait until most people have found it.

Your waiting indicates to them how important it is to read along.

If the passage is short – read it twice – God's Holy Word should have preeminence.

Possibly have someone in the congregation read it.

MEN need more time – so announce your request by name ahead of time.

The order always is; you read; a sister reads, then the brother reads.

If it is a longer passage (more than six verses) you can assign several verses to one person.

Should you use verses on Power Point – you can have the people read it together in unison out loud.

#### **2. Use a new Translation**

Explain the value of new translations.

Have someone in the congregation read the standard version for comparison.

Briefly highlight a few verses; a few words; or the better meaning.

#### **3. Prepare and present a written purpose statement**

Up front clearly state what the message is to accomplish.

Each sermon needs to have a specific written goal/purpose: What does the preacher wish to accomplish?

Prior to the Service this needs to be shared with the worship leader and music team.

Preacher, worship leader, music team should discuss this and pray about it together ahead of time.

The purpose and the desired practical results should be stated up front.

Should you have a Power Point presentation of it, it can be used as a worship aid.

It can be read by the congregation; referred to in between songs.

It should be a joyful expression, something like "this morning we want to discover 'how we can adore Christ better'", or how we can see "our neighbors as eternal beings created in God's image".

After the worship service hearers need to be able to reiterate the purpose.

(Did they comprehend my purpose?)

#### **4. Preach about Jesus, God the Father, the Holy Spirit.**

Who is HE? How beautiful is HE? What does HE do for us?

This ought to be the main theme of all messages.

New believers know NOTHING about who God is – how wonderful HE is.

New believers only know the lies about how bad God is.

(That deception has been their input message for their whole lifetime).

Illustrate a picture about God's goodness/generosity from "*Financial Freedom*" –

God is the Great Giver – Deut. 28:1-14, "*Count Your Blessings*" brochure, "*Faith Promise Plan*" brochure.

Resulting application – our Great Experiment – out of gratitude by Faith return a small portion.

#### **5. Each sermon needs to include a modern story - from Ukraine.**

a) It is well to begin your message by stating your name – it makes for personal attentiveness, especially among new attenders. Each message should begin with a personal or family illustration. The temptation for listeners is to think you are immune to the daily hardships and stresses they face. Sharing a personal struggle or victory enables listeners to identify with what you will say. Avoid giving a lecture – with no real-life intro, nothing personal, and no closing invitation to respond.

b) Stories should be shortened and adapted as an illustration for a point in the sermon.

The story must help to clarify or support the purpose statement.

Stories may be gained from the news, a story told to you, personal experiences, reports.

c) Actual Spiritual happenings that can serve as illustrations may be gathered from:

- Seeing Jesus do a miracle or a specific unique thing.
- A specific answer to prayer.
- Someone doing a good deed that became an event.
- People's personal testimonies of God's working in their lives.

## **6. Each sermon needs to include a physical object lesson** - or demonstration.

! Do like Jesus Did!

Remember you, the preacher, are competing against images on smartphones, the Internet, TV, and computers.

**65%** of all people are visual learners. Visual information processes in the brain 60,000 times faster than text.

Attention spans are shorter and are becoming shorter in the younger generations. Without object illustration or lesson only those over 40 years will be reached.

Without a visual illustration **each time** you will miss reaching the future generation.

Researchers have found that people who are asked to recall information after a three-day period retained just **10** percent of what they heard during an oral presentation, **35** percent from a visual presentation, and **65** percent from an oral presentation that included visuals.

Objects used remain longer in attendees' memory than anything else in the message.

Objects significantly convey a truth and may be recalled and applied much later.

## **7. Preaching should be about holiness.**

That is, sermons should be encouraging. !!! No preaching about SIN!!! Sermons should be uplifting like – lifting your people each Sunday one step higher on their spiritual staircase - 52 stairs to reach for more beautiful lifestyles per year. Lifestyles pleasing to our Heavenly Father. Lifestyles that show your members are becoming like the Heavenly Father HIMSELF. Preaching about sin does NOT do that – it does not accomplish Divine Lifestyles. We should NOT ignore sin, but sin should be limited to less than ¼ of a sermon. This takes faith to believe that the Holy Spirit's assignment is to convict about sin. How does the Holy Spirit accomplish this? By us preaching 'the "Good News" – not the bad.' Holding up the standard of what should be – like Phil. 4:8. The Holy Spirit convicts people of the discrepancy between where they are at and what they could/should have been. This produces the Holy Spirit's conviction and desire/longing to get what they are missing.

Here is a synopsis of how a good sermon for new believers runs:

- ¼ Describe the GLORIES of the Godhead and HIS desirability;
- ¼ Cover our shortcomings/needs (sin);
- ¼ Illuminate what beauty/glory/peace has been prepared and is awaiting us in **this** life.
- ¼ How one can obtain these privileges that the Father hopes to give us.

(NOTE: it is NOT **attain**, but obtain. Attain is gaining higher spiritual status by self-improvement which is just "sin management"; to obtain is an Experiment of Faith – asking for and receiving a gift!

## **8. Connect with Jesus – An Invitation to Decide**

Each service should end with a 3 minute invitation for those who wish to express a need for Jesus, or a new step of faith in their spiritual journey. Their desire should be indicated by a raised hand or otherwise. This invitation, for commitment or recommitment should be freshly worded each time. Extend an opportunity for prayer or meeting with a team member after the service.

## **9. Each sermon needs to include an application** - for the coming week.

This needs to be clarified several times during the Worship service.

At the end of the message or the end of the worship service ask hearers if they understood it.

- The application needs to be reported on in testimony the following week.
- This is a splendid opportunity for testimonies.

People want to practice their faith. But people need help. People want to please God. People just do not know **HOW** to do this on a daily basis, personally, in their family, at work, and in the community where they live their daily lives.

Both the Worship Leader and the preacher need to include practical possibilities to help the people.