

SERMON PREP TEMPLATE

*A Simple Guide for Crafting
Expository, Cross-Centered
Messages*

www.MCKAYCASTON.com

SERMON PREP TEMPLATE

A Simple Guide for Crafting Expository, Cross-Centered Messages

INTRODUCTION

- Raise a problem addressed by the text.

An example problem from Psalm 32: Leaders are flawed.

- Illustrate it with an illustration, story, statistic, quote, etc.

Example: I was about to buy a new ceramic coffee mug and noticed that it had a fatal flaw. The ceramic was cracked.

- Make a personal connection to the problem. It should not be presented as a theoretical problem but a very real issue in your life and those who are listening to the message.

Example: What about a flawed leader?

Describe how the problem touches all of our lives and highlights our need for grace.

Example: This is not just about flawed leaders in the church. What about flawed husbands, mothers, employees, teachers, athletes, politicians, etc.?

The problem creates a need for the hearer, making them “lean in.” They want to listen because they need help with the problem or issue you have raised.

- Put the problem in the form of a question. How are we going to deal with this?

Example: How can a flawed sinner be an effective leader?

- Reveal how the problem you raised is addressed in a specific passage you will study and that God's word will help deal with the issue.

Example: "Paul shows us how to deal with how a flawed sinner can be an effective leader in Psalm 32. Let' read it."

READ THE TEXT

EXPOSITION

Restate the question the problem raises and give a "road-map" of your main points that lead to the solution/resolution of the issue from the specific text you are studying.

Example: "Paul shows us 3 reasons why [to deal with the problem/answer the question] a flawed leader can be an effective leader..."

1. Reason #1
2. Reason #2
3. Reason #3

In exposition, you explain in a logical way from the text how the passage helps solve the problem raised in the introduction. This is your message outline.

Main Point 1

1. Explain the truth or application from the text
 - State the point (this is the main point)
 - Place the point (“We see this in verses...”)
 - Prove the point from the verses referenced
2. Illustrate the point (then leverage the illustration into application)
3. Apply the point

[Transition statement - restate main point 1 and connect it logically to main point 2]]

Main Point 2

1. Explain the truth or application from the text
 - State the point
 - Place the point (We see this in verse...)
 - Prove the point (from the text)
2. Illustrate the point (then leverage the illustration into application)
3. Apply the point

[Transition statement - restate main point 2 and connect it logically to main point 3]

Main Point 3

1. Explain the truth or application from the text
 - State the point

- Place the point (We see this in verse...)
 - Prove the point (from the text)
2. Illustrate the point (then leverage the illustration into application)
 3. Apply the point

[Transition statement - make the connection to the conclusion]

GOSPEL/REDEMPTION FOCUSED CONCLUSION

- Conclude with an illustration, story, or example that summarizes the main issue/problem raised in the message.
- Tie the illustration to the person and work of Jesus as the ultimate solution to the problem raised in the introduction. Describe what the cross tells us in view of the problem and/or issue.
- Application for believers: show how abiding in Jesus provides the enabling grace for life change concerning the issue that has been raised.
- Application for unbelievers: consider making an invitation to receive Jesus as Savior (sin bearer and righteousness provider).