

# How I prepare a message

## 1. Decide the Bible passage (or topic)

### 2. Context

Determine the context of the passage. The context largely determines the meaning of the text.

Write the context:

- What is the literary genre?
- What is the historical-cultural context?
- Surrounding text

### 3. Biblical text

Read it several times so you are familiar with its content. Summarise its meaning. Look for section breaks – these help to determine the sections of the sermon.

Determine what it meant to the original Biblical audience (exegesis). Use:

- Word studies
- Grammar
- Context
- Notes in my Bible
- Notes in NIV study Bible
- Macdonald (1995) “Believer’s Bible commentary”.

### 4. Determine the main biblical principle

Determine the biblical principle behind the original meaning of the text. Use what has changed since then to determine the modern biblical principle. Check how this fits with the rest of the Bible.

### 5. Determine the Proposition

This is the main point of the sermon.

Use the main biblical principle to reduce the main point to one sentence, which will appear at the end of the Introduction and the end of the Conclusion.

### 6. Illustration

Determine an illustration of the proposition, which will be used to catch attention in the Introduction.

## 7. Outline

Determine a catchy title & repetitive section headings

- Introduction
- Context
- Sub-heading 1
- Sub-heading 2
- Sub-heading 3
- Conclusion

### 8. Introduction: The beginning of the journey

Write the introduction

### 9. Conclusion: the end of the journey

Write the conclusion

### 10. Additional research: If have time

Use cross references in NIV study Bible:

- OT background to a NT passage
- NT quotes of an OT passage
- OT to OT & NT to NT

Terminology – meanings of key words. Use Strong’s numbers:

- Interlinear Bible
- Strong’s concordance

Look up other verses by the same writer with the same word.

Web sites:

Bible gateway.com – Bible translations, word search

Biblehub.com – Hebrew & Greek Bibles, Word studies, Lexions, Strongs numbers  
<https://bible.org/netbible/> - NET Bible: translators notes

### 11. Write Sections

- Section 1 (plus any sub-sections)
- Section 2 (plus any sub-sections)
- Section 3 (plus any sub-sections)

Pattern used in each section:

- Explanation of text
- Illustration
- Applications to today

## **12. Application**

What does it tell us about:

- God
- People like us
- Necessary (to all) –Always necessary for all people
- Possible (to some) – Sometimes possible for some people
- Impossible – How the passage cannot be applied

Take into account:

- Our different context. For example, Genesis to John is a different covenant to ours.
- The progressive revelation of Scripture.
- Our different circumstances.

## **13 Scripture Reading**

Decide on Scripture reading

## **14 Introduction to Scripture Reading**

Write introduction to Scripture reading

**17. Preach it aloud:** a few times

Edit for clarity and brevity.

## **References**

Bryan Chapell (2005) “Christ-centred preaching”, Baker Academic

Tim Hawkins (2013) “Preach like a train driver”, Disciples Unlimited

Scott Duvall & Daniel Hays (2012) “Grasping God’s Word”, Zondervan

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