

Men's Worship Training Workshop

Creating An Outline

Scriptures To Consider:

1. 2 Timothy 4:2 – *“Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.”*
2. 2 Timothy 2:1-2 – *“You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”*

Sermon Design Options:

3. Expository Sermon – A sermon based on one passage of scripture.
4. Topical Sermon – A sermon based on a topic using multiple scriptures to establish each point.

Finding The Sermon Idea:

1. Maintain a sermon idea book.
2. Fill your book with the ideas that come to you daily: You will be surprised how quickly your book will fill up with sermon ideas.
 - a) Daily reading, (i.e. newspaper, radio, TV, internet, etc.)
 - b) Observations you make in your life
 - c) Personal Bible study
 - d) Adult Bible classes
 - e) Preacher's sermons

Sermon Construction Approaches:

1. An outline (skeleton, or fully developed)
2. Extemporaneous – A sermon delivery using very few notes. This is usually not a good style for beginners.
3. Manuscript Sermon: Every word of the sermon is printed out and then read in the presentation. This approach is labor intensive and challenging to present in an interesting manor.

Sermon Outlines:

1. This is probably the most preferred style used for most preachers today. But keep in mind there are different outline styles.
2. Most of us learned the basic construction of an outline while in school.
3. When constructing your outline determine a target point – the main idea of your lesson.
4. Keep in mind that the main goal of your sermon is not to just inform, but to persuade.
5. An outline is composed of a title, introduction, main points, sub-points, conclusion.
 - a) **Title**: Your title should be reflective of your target point, and be attention grabbing and create interest. Your title may go through many revisions as your outline develops.
 - b) **Introduction**: Most audiences will make a mental decision to listen or not to listen in the first few minutes of a sermon. Think of your introduction as a hook – a way to persuade your audience to accompany you on this oratory journey.
 - c) **Main Points, Sub-Points**: Create three – five main points in your outline, and each point may consist of multiple subpoints. There must be a natural progression of each of your points. Avoid having points that are disjointed – that will make it harder for your audience to follow you. There are two polar extremes you want to avoid as you develop your outline: Extreme simplicity and convoluted complexity. Make sure your outlines are easy to understand, but also included some fresh, insightful ideas – this will require some extra digging and studying.
 - d) **Conclusion**: A basic summary of your sermon. Think of your conclusion as the climactic moment of your lesson. The point where the scriptures, points and arguments all come together and reach their persuasive peak.
6. Avoid the problem of *outline overload*:
 - a) This is when you include too much information in your outline. (i.e. Why use five scriptures to make a point when two will suffice? Some back-ground information and history can be helpful but going overboard will drag down the tempo of the sermon and you will lose your audience.
 - b) To create an effective sermon outline, you must master the art of editing.
7. Study Materials And Aids:
 - a) **The Bible first and foremost!**
 - b) Bible concordance, topical bibles, cross referencing aids, multiple translations, Greek and Hebrew aids, commentaries (use great care), sermon outlines.
 - c) Bible programs (Free Programs: E-Sword, Olive Tree, The Word, Bible Analyzer; Good programs to buy: PC Study Bible and Logos.

Outline Example

Formulas Of Life (Faith)

Text: Psalms 23

Introduction:

1. Einstein's famous formula $E=MC^2$ (squared)
2. Molecular formula for aspirin: $C_9H_8O_4$; $CH_3COOC_6H_4COOH$

No God = No Morals:

1. Morality begins with the character of God – Romans 2:15
2. God provides a moral compass via his Word – 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21
3. Judges 17:16 – *“In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”*

No God = No Eternal Life:

1. 1 John 5:11; 1 John 2:25; John 17:3

No God = No Resurrection:

1. Psalm 49:15; Isaiah 25:8; 1 Corinthians 15:26; John 5:28-29; 1 Corinthians 15:19

No God = No Comfort And Support:

1. Psalm 23:4; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4; Psalm 73:25-26

Conclusion:

1. If there is no God, then there is no afterlife. When we die that's the end.
2. If there is no God, there is no divine architect. We are on our own.
3. If there is no God, then this life is all we have.