

Preparing Sermons and Bible Studies

- I. Personal preparation
 - A. Pray that the Lord will teach you lessons for your own life from the passage
 - B. Read the passage through several times each day and meditate on it - Psalm 1:1-3
 - C. Ask the Lord to give you wisdom and understanding - Isaiah 11:2
 - D. Yield yourself to God so He can speak through you - Romans 6:13, 16

- II. Planning as you prepare the study
 - A. Who was this passage originally written to?
 - B. Where were these people at that time?
 - C. When did the events in this passage happen?
 - D. What is the topic of this passage? What other passages apply to this topic?
 - E. Why is this passage important to us today?
 - F. How can we put some lesson in this passage into practice in our lives today?

- III. Preparation of the notes
 - A. Put into one sentence the meaning of this passage
 - B. Put into one sentence what you want the audience to know, do and become
 - C. Write out the main thoughts you want to emphasize
(some people write only an outline, others write it word for word)

- IV. Parts to include in the message
 - A. Introduction - How do we get the attention of those to whom we are speaking?
 - B. Explanation of each section
 1. read the first section
 2. explain the first section verse by verse
 3. use illustrations from the Bible
 4. use illustrations from life that people understand
 5. show how this section relates to the lesson you want people to learn to put into practice today
 6. repeat the five steps above with each of the other sections
 - C. Conclusion - How do we put into practice what we have learned today?

- V. Presentation of the message
 - A. As you read each group of verses
 1. pause at the commas and stop at the periods
 2. change speed in the phrases you want to emphasize
 3. put expression into the words as you read them
 - B. The conclusion
 1. review what you want people to know
 2. give ways to put what we have learned into practice this week
 3. help the group to understand what God wants them to become

Remember, people want to hear what God says, not your opinions!