

# Preparing Expository Sermons

---

with Dr. Ramesh P. Richard

# Study Workbook

## Table of Contents

Session 1	Preparing to Preach	1
Session 2	Expository Preaching Defined	2
Session 3	Step 1: Study the Text	3
Session 4	Step 2: Structure the Text	5
Session 5	Step 3: The Central Proposition of the Text	7
Session 6	Step 4: The Purpose Bridge	9
Session 7	Steps 5 & 6: The Central Proposition of the Sermon & Structure the Sermon	11
Session 8	Step 7: Preach the Sermon	14

Based on the Ramesh Richard's field-tested seminar ***Scripture Sculpture*** and book ***Preparing Expository Sermons: A Seven-Step Method for Biblical Preaching***.

© 2021 RREACH | All right Reserved. [www.rreach.org](http://www.rreach.org) Used with permission and licensed to Teach Every Nation. [www.teacheverynation.org](http://www.teacheverynation.org) Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers and used by permission. Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan, Zondervan.com. All rights reserved. For additional copies see [www.tencourses.org](http://www.tencourses.org)

## Session 1

# PREPARING TO PREACH

### WATCH:

**Session 1 Preparing to Preach** (11 minutes)

### PREPARING TO PREACH

Dr. Ramesh Richard said that gifts, humor, creativity and temperament alone won't carry you through. You have to prepare! **Take a moment to consider how you'll make time in your schedule for sermon preparation.**

The basic matter of preparing to preach God's Word includes:

- Having a strong view of the Trinity.
- Having a solid view of the Bible.
- Having a strategic view of your preaching.
- Viewing your gifts as special and unique.

As you review those four attributes, assess how you are doing in each of those areas. **Is there an area you need to focus on?**

In explaining the title of his method—Scripture Sculpture—Dr. Richard said, “The Bible is what God has made. The sermon is what you make with what God has made.”

**How does comparing your sermon to a work of art impact the way you view sermon preparation?**

The dynamics of preaching include:

- Your relationship with God's Spirit.
- Your devotional richness and feeding.
- Your personality and temperament.

The mechanics of preaching include:

- Doing the basic things well.
- Doing the main things right, repeatedly.

Dr. Richard concluded by saying that when you prepare, you deliver spiritual health to God's people. Then they get to pass it on. Pray, prepare, then preach. Commit those three important words to memory—pray, prepare, and preach!

## Session 2

# EXPOSITORY PREACHING DEFINED

### CLASS DISCUSSION:

*Share some of the things you have learned from Session 1.*

### WATCH:

**Session 2 Expository Preaching Defined** (18 minutes)

### DEFINITION OF EXPOSITORY PREACHING

Expository preaching is to make contemporary the central proposition of a Biblical text that is derived from proper methods of interpretation and declared through effective means of communication to inform minds, instruct hearts, and influence behavior toward godliness.

#### **The “what” of expository preaching:**

- Contemporization (to make contemporary)
- Central proposition of the text

#### **The “how” of expository preaching:**

- Interpretation
- Communication

#### **The “why” of expository preaching:**

- Inform the mind
- Instruct the heart
- Influence behavior

#### **The 7-Step Process of the Scripture Sculpture Method**

(Answers provided in the video.)

Step 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Step 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Step 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Step 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Step 5: \_\_\_\_\_

Step 6: \_\_\_\_\_

Step 7: \_\_\_\_\_

## Session 3

# Step 1: STUDY THE TEXT

### REVIEW:

*Review the 7-Step Process*

### WATCH:

**Session 3 Step 1: Study the Text** (17 minutes)

### STEP 1: STUDY THE TEXT

#### *“Seeing” Steps*

**Observe the important words (circle them in red).**

**Observe the important relationships.**

- Grammatical
- Logical
- Chronological
- Psychological
- Contextual
- Genre

#### *“Seeking” Steps*

**Ask “what, why, how” of the important words.**

- What did they mean then?
- What do they mean now?
- What do they mean elsewhere in the Bible?

**Ask questions of the relationships.**

- Grammatical—tense, number, gender
- Logical—cause/effect, reason, result, contrast, condition, purpose.
- Chronological
- Psychological
- Contextual
- Genre

**Ask other questions.**

- Backgrounds
- Important facts
- Important meanings
- Important applications

**EXERCISE:** Practice observing and asking questions.

**List at least 10 observations and questions from the passage above:**

Matthew 28:18–20 (NIV)

“<sup>18</sup>Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

**CLASS DISCUSSION**

**Share some of your questions and observations. (40 minutes)**



## Session 4

# Step 2: STRUCTURE THE TEXT

### REVIEW:

*Review the 7-Step Process*

### WATCH:

**Session 4 Step 2: Structure the Text** (19 minutes)

### STEP 2: STRUCTURE THE TEXT

#### Identify structure indicators or prepositions

- **Cause:** for, because, since, as
- **Reason:** for, because, since, as, that
- **Result:** that, so that, so, which
- **Purpose:** in order that, which, to, unto, until, towards
- **Means:** by, from, through, out of, in
- **Time:** until, till, to, when, whenever, from, through, of, in, by, according to, against, with, concerning, out of
- **Place:** where, wherever, from, in, through, into, upon, with, concerning, till
- **Manner:** just as, just, as, with, to

#### Identify important keys.

- Changes in content.
- Introductions of new subjects.
- Repetition of subjects, ideas, or themes.
- Changes in the form of the text.

#### Mark important structure elements.

- Circle (in green) all structural elements.
- Distinguish the major structural elements from the minor ones.
- Outline the passage according to the structure.

### EXAMPLE

**“For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to practice it and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.”**  
(Ezra 7:10, NASB 1995)

**Nouns:** Ezra, heart, law of the Lord, statutes, ordinances, Israel

**Verbs:** set, study, practice, teach

### Structure Indicators:

**“FOR”** (major structure indicator because it links a verse to another verse; this means you need to read verse 9 to know the context).

**“TO”** (there are 3 tos that serve as minor structure indicators).

**“AND”** (also serves as a minor structure indicator).

### EXERCISE: Structure the verse below:

Matthew 28:19–20a (NIV)

“<sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you..”

### CLASS DISCUSSION: Present your work. (10 minutes)

### HOMEWORK: Study and Structure the following verse:

Psalms 133 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> A song of Ascent of David. How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity! <sup>2</sup> It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron’s beard, down on the collar of his robe. <sup>3</sup> It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.



## Session 5:

# Step 3: THE CENTRAL PROPOSITION OF THE TEXT

### REVIEW:

*Review the 7-Step Process*

### CLASS DISCUSSION:

*How did you structure Psalm 133?*

### WATCH:

**Session 5 Step 3: The Central Proposition of the Text** (14 minutes)

### STEP 3: THE CENTRAL PROPOSITION OF THE TEXT

The Central Proposition of the Text (CPT) is a single unit of thought that binds together and gives meaning to all the particulars of a text... always appears in a full grammatical sentence... and is composed of two parts:

The **theme** of the text—"What is the author talking about?"

The **thrust** of the text—"What is the author saying about the theme?"

**Example verse: Circle in color the Central Proposition of the Text (CPT):**

"For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to practice it and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel." (Ezra 7:10, NASB 1995)

**EXERCISE:** Write out the CENTRAL PROPOSITION OF THE TEXT for:

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

"<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

**CLASS DISCUSSION:** Present your answers. (15 minutes)

**HOMEWORK:** What is the CENTRAL PROPOSITION OF THE TEXT for:

PSALM 133 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> A song of Ascent of David. How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

<sup>2</sup> It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe.

<sup>3</sup> It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

### **Step 1: Study the Text**

Write down some of your questions and observations

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

### **Step 2: Structure the Text**

Can you rewrite the Structure of the Text from memory?

### **Step 3: Central Proposition of Text**

Theme:

Thrust:

CPT:

## Session 6

### Step 4: THE PURPOSE BRIDGE

#### REVIEW:

*Review the 7-Step Process*

#### CLASS DISCUSSION:

*Review homework of the CPT of Psalm 133.*

#### WATCH:

**Session 6 Step 4: The Purpose Bridge** (14 minutes)

#### STEP 4: THE PURPOSE BRIDGE

**The Purpose Bridge answers the question:**

On the basis of the Central Proposition of the Text, what does God want my people to hear, understand, and obey from this sermon?

**The Purpose Bridge:**

- Focuses the introduction of the sermon on the need the preacher must surface from the text.
- Determines what the preacher should include or exclude from the sermon.
- Influences the sermon's conclusion and application(s).
- Helps in choosing the illustrations that best support the purpose of the sermon.
- Provides an objective way to measure the success of the sermon.
- Provides the material from which to create the Central Proposition of the Sermon.

#### EXERCISE: Write out the purpose bridge for Matthew 28:18-20:

"<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

**Step 1: Study the Text**

**Step 2: Structure the Text.** Do you remember the structure of the text? Can you write it down from memory?

**Step 3: Central Proposition of the Text.**

Could you remember the Central Proposition of the Text and write it down from memory? If not, just go back on your notes.

**Step 4: Purpose Bridge****HOMEWORK:****Write out a purpose bridge for Psalm 133:**

<sup>1</sup>A song of Ascent of David. How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

<sup>2</sup>It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe.

<sup>3</sup>It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

**NOTE:** The purpose of the sermon must contain part of the main idea of the passage you want to highlight.

**Step 1: Study the Text****Step 2: Structure the Text**

Can you remember the structure of the text?

**Step 3: Central Proposition of the Text**

Can you create the CPT without looking at your notes?

**Step 4 Purpose Bridge**

## Session 7

# Steps 5 & 6: THE CENTRAL PROPOSITION OF THE SERMON & STRUCTURE THE SERMON

### REVIEW:

*Review the 7-Step Process*

### CLASS DISCUSSION:

*Review Homework: Purpose Bridge Psalm 133*

### WATCH

**Steps 5 & 6: The Central Proposition of the Sermon & Structure the Sermon**  
(17 minutes)

### STEP 5: THE CENTRAL PROPOSITION OF THE SERMON

**The Central Proposition of the Sermon answers the questions:**

- **What am I talking about?** (theme)
- **What am I saying about my theme?** (thrust)

The theme portion of the Central Proposition of the Sermon can be created by turning the Purpose Bridge into a question.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

### STEP 6: STRUCTURE THE SERMON

**A sermon has four major sections:**

- **Introduction**—includes at minimum the theme of the sermon or the full central proposition. (Attention, Need, Purpose, Theme)
  - **Sub-introduction**—includes any background information, setup contexts, or transitions.
- **Body**—includes the content of the passage, illustrations, and applications.
- **Conclusion**—wraps up the sermon without introducing any new material.

**How do you “flesh out” the sermon structure/body?  
Follow S.A.V.E. @ Point.**

### **S.A.V.E. @ Point**

In order to “flesh out” or develop the structure, a preacher can follow the SAVE@ point method.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ the point: To help the audience clearly hear the point you are
2. \_\_\_\_\_ the point: Give authority to the point by anchoring it in the text.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ the point: Explain why you have drawn this particular point from the text.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ the point: Probe the meaning of the point. Use an illustration to help the people understand this point as biblically elicited and referring to them.
5. [\_\_\_\_\_ the point]: The main point needs to be applied here and now.

**EXERCISE:** **Develop the Central Proposition of the Sermon and Structure the Sermon for Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV).** (15 minutes)

“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

**Step 1: Study the Text**

**Step 2: Structure the Text**

**Step 3: Central Proposition of the Text**

**Step 4: Purpose Bridge**

**Step 5 Central Proposition of the Sermon**

**Theme:**

**Thrust:**

**CPS:**

**Step 6: Structure the Sermon**

**I. Introduction**

**II. Main discussion points** (Apply S.A.V.E. @ point to all the sub-points)

- A.
- B.
- C.

**III. Challenge or Conclusion**

**CLASS DISCUSSION:** Present your answers. (15 minutes)

**HOMEWORK:**

**Develop a sermon manuscript based on Psalm 133 or 2 Chronicles 7:14 by applying the 7-Step Process and S.A.V.E. @ points. Show your work from Study the Text to Structure the Text.**



## Session 8

# Step 7: PREACH THE SERMON

### REVIEW:

*Review the 7-Step process*

### WATCH:

**Session 8 Step 7: Preach the Sermon** (15 minutes)

### STEP 7: PREACH THE SERMON

- **Write the Sermon** (full manuscript built from the outline). Writing a sermon manuscript clarifies your ideas. Excellent speakers often make multiple revisions to their manuscript. This is part of the normal process of clearing your ideas.
- **Practice the Sermon** (work on style, delivery, and pacing). The more your practice, the better the delivery will be.
- **Preach the Sermon..** At this point, the fruit of your discipline will show. Depend on the Spirit's guidance and power.

### ILLUSTRATIONS

The impact of a sermon is always connected to the illustrations in it. Good communicators use many effective illustrations. It is wrong to use illustrations with the purpose of lengthening the sermon. Illustration are used to add light, not length. They make the materials understandable, but they should not be the focal point of your sermon. Illustrations are not used to entertain; they are to help the audience understand the content or the claims of what is being illustrated.

#### How to use an illustration:

- a. Make a point
- b. Transition to illustration
- c. Illustrate the point
- d. Transition to audience
- e. Restate or review the point

### APPLICATION

There is no point in being academically accurate if the information does not transform your hearers. The application is when you move your audience from just receiving revelation to implementing God's truth. Appropriate application must be customized

and made concrete for your audience.

## TRANSITIONS

Transitions accomplish smoothness of thought and understanding. They serve as bridges between parts of movements of the sermon so that the audience does not have to leap across intellectual or psychological rivers. Transition statements guarantee that the audience will follow the progress of the sermon.

### **SOLID TRANSITIONS enable the preacher to:**

- a. Review the theme of the sermon without monotony
- b. Progress without hurdles
- c. Connect parts without confusions
- d. Remember the sermons without rote memorization
- e. Preserve the planned structure of the sermon

## CONCLUSION

A conclusion completes the sermon. It integrates varied strands, reviews the central proposition of the sermon, resolves earlier irresolution and invites the audience to obedience.

### **Features**

- a. **Cohesion:** The audience now hears in concise statements all the important points of the sermon.
- b. **Resolution:** The audience now has the feeling that the destination set out in the purpose during the introduction has been preached.

### **Faulty Conclusions:**

- a. Do not simply stop.
- b. Do not give false cues.
- c. Do not try multiple conclusions.
- d. Do not introduce fresh thoughts in the conclusion.
- e. Do not construct a conclusion that is longer than the sermon.
- f. Do not give your conclusion before you get to the conclusion.
- g. Do not develop “delivery droopiness” during the conclusion.

### **Skillful Conclusions**

- a. A clear statement of the central proposition along the summarization of the main points is acceptable.
- b. Application and implications woven with personal strategies for obedience are even more effective.
- c. A single-sentence affirmation of the truth, a contemporized and easily remembered version of the central proposition, is very good.
- d. A final story, which may illustrate the central proposition of the message, is useful if it meets the three criteria for illustrations: correlation, credibility and claim.

## FINAL REQUIREMENT:

### **Preaching practicum.**

Each student must give a 5- to 7-minute sermon based on either Psalm 133 or 2 Chronicles 7:14.