

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!