

Template 1: Constructing a Biblical Sermon - Passage Focus

Scripture passage	Date or Preacher
<p>1. Soak in the Passage and Research the Passage - Pray through the passage. Read it many times. Use your language skills. What questions does it raise? What is God saying to you? Don't rush your conclusions. Check the biblical context. Check the historical/cultural background. Check your commentaries. Look for fresh information. Look for answers to your questions.</p>	
<p>2. Outline the Passage - Write a series of sentences that summarise the paragraphs of the passage. These sentences should flow like a story and will condense the argument/thoughts/ideas/story/images of the passage.</p>	
<p>3. Summarise the Passage - Write a sentence (with a verb) encapsulating the heart of the passage. Summarise the main ideas of the passage, preferably in the same person, style and tense as the passage. A long sentence is okay.</p>	
<p>4. Determine the Need addressed by the Passage - Write a statement that describes the reason for this passage. What human failing/need (both in biblical times and today) caused God to have this passage recorded? This statement is phrased NEGATIVELY (a sin or a human need). <i>Contemplate how this problem impacts your life.</i></p>	
<p>5. Clarify the Central Message - In the light of the passage Need (4), refine your passage Summary (3) to concisely summarise the central gospel message the passage provides for all readers/listeners (timeless).</p>	
<p>6. Decide on the Gospel Truth - Based on 5, construct a clear, contemporary, concise, timeless, universal sentence nailing the central gospel truth that you deeply want your listeners to grasp and live.</p>	