

What is the Sermon?

- The sermon is the reading and _____ of the _____.
(Exodus 24:3, Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Luke 4:14-21, 1 Timothy 4:13)
- The sermon is an _____ of the _____ of Jesus.
(Matthew 4:17, 2 Timothy 4:2)
- The sermon is a _____ for God's people.
(Acts 13:15, Luke 3:7-18, 1 Timothy 5:1)

Why do we hear a sermon when we gather?

- God has a _____ and a plan for the _____.
(Revelation 2:1-5)
- God calls and equips certain believers to _____ that _____.
(Ephesians 4:11-13)
- The sermon is how God _____ his covenant people.
(1 Corinthians 14:3-4, 2 Corinthians 5:20)

What does the sermon do?

- The sermon dedicates time to _____ to God.
- The sermon trains us to be a _____, _____, _____ body.
(Ephesians 4:11-13)
- The sermon confronts us with the _____ of God.
(Hebrews 4:12)
- The sermon gives us an opportunity to _____ to God's _____.
(Hebrews 4:7, 2 Corinthians 5:20)

Conclusion

- God speaks to his people _____ they gather in his name.
- The value of the sermon comes from what happens in our _____ and our _____
- Every sermon is an opportunity to _____ the _____ of Jesus.

Small Group Questions

1. GETTING STARTED:

- What did you find most interesting about the sermon this week? The most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
- How you ever heard God speak to you clearly through a sermon? What did you learn?

2. INTO THE BIBLE (READ REVELATION 2:1-7 AND 3:14-22)

- These passages are letters sent by Jesus to two specific churches. What are the differences in the two churches, according to Jesus? What are the unique challenges & victories in each church?
- How are Jesus' instructions to the churches in Ephesus and Laodicea similar? How are they different?
- Why did Jesus send a different letter to each church instead of one letter for all of them? Why didn't he send a letter to each Christian (or each pastor)?
- Based on these letters, what role does the congregation play in God's plan? Is it more or less than a club for individual Christians?

3. GOING DEEPER

- What kinds of obstacles get in the way of us hearing God speak through the sermon?
- What can we do to ensure that we're able to hear God during the sermon?
- Did God say anything you during this week's sermon?

4. PRAYER

- Pray for the church, that we would have ears to hear what God would say to us. Pray for our preachers and teachers, that they would follow the guiding of the Holy Spirit.