

## *A Sunday sermon*

The SUNDAY sermon is not an in-depth teaching time and must not be too long (30 minutes max). It must attract non-believers, inspire believers and educate everyone, and the mood and tone is very important as people will often remember a FEELING rather than information. People must sense and feel the love, joy and excitement of Jesus and the Christian life along with being motivated by GRACE, rather than legalism, guilt or religion.

# 1 BIG IDEA

You must be able to articulate in your own mind what the talk's one big message is. You should be able to state this in one sentence before you give your talk.

It should be a compelling and motivating idea. It must be captivating and important and it must have HELPED YOU in your life. If it is real for you, it will be real to those who hear you.

It should inspire people to faith, hope and action based on joy rather than legalism or guilt.

There should also be a good illustration for this idea that makes it real and captures people's imagination and emotions. A personal story or experience is often the best way to do this.

To back up and support your main point you should have 3 supporting points which are helpful and along the same theme. People should be able to follow your logical progression and see how the three points back up the main idea.

# —3— SUPPORTING Points

You can have more than three points if you are making the same point from many different angles or if you are using several different Bible verses to support the same idea and explaining the verses one by one. An illustration or personal example for each point is very helpful and important.

Don't try to be too clever or technical. Your aim is to help people rather than to impress them. Don't feel you must preach every verse from a passage in an expositional way. That is for other formats rather than Sunday which is outreach focused.

There should be a practical way to apply what has been taught – it should change people's lives and you should conclude with this application. There is a general life application – how will I live differently going forward – but there is also an immediate application – “what is God saying to you right NOW?”

# PRACTICAL APPLICATION AND SUMMARY

Encourage people to “do business with God” right then and there and to make decisions or commitments or repent if necessary. The main idea as a concluding summary can also be helpful.

The mood and tone is important. People must get the overall sense that God is good, the Christian life is great, and that YOU are affected and excited by what you are saying.

Grace and faith will make people WANT to serve God, legalism will make people feel duty bound. Avoid legalism at all costs. If you are hitting the 30-minute mark STOP – a long boring talk dishonours God and His word. ENJOY!!