

1. Who should preach?

- 1) Those willing to be held accountable (James 3:1).
- 2) Those willing to preach first to themselves (1st Timothy 4:16).
- 3) Those who set worthy examples (1st Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:6-8).
- 4) Those who are faithful (2nd Timothy 2:2; Romans 2:21-23).
- 5) Those who would feel ashamed not to preach (1st Corinthians 9:16; Jeremiah 20:9).

Keep in mind that not teaching indicates lack of maturity (Hebrews 5:12).

2. What authority does the preacher have?

He has "*all authority*" to speak, exhort, and rebuke (Titus 2:15) according to apostolic instruction. This cannot be correctly overruled by elders, members, or anyone.

3. How should a subject be chosen?

- 1) Current events often make for appropriate topics (Luke 13:1-5).
- 2) Responding to questions is relevant (Mark 10:1-12). Note that the sincerity of the inquisitor does not necessarily invalidate the query.
- 3) A historical event from Scripture can be told:
 - a) The flood of Noah
 - b) Sodom overthrown
 - c) The plagues in Egypt and Israel's exodus
 - d) The conquest of Jericho
 - e) David and Bathsheba's sin
 - f) Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's courageous stand
 - g) Jesus' birth

- h) The crucifixion
 - i) Christ's resurrection
 - j) The establishment of the church
- 4) Characters can be studied:
- a) Abraham
 - b) David
 - c) Mary
 - d) Paul
- 5) A sin can be admonished:
- a) Covetousness, envy, and jealousy
 - b) Lust, lewdness, and fornication
 - c) Foul language and cursing
 - d) Pride, self-will, and presumption
- 6) A virtue can be extolled:
- a) Love
 - b) Patience
 - c) Self-control
 - d) Knowledge
- 7) An act of worship can be explained:
- a) Prayer
 - b) Song
 - c) Lord's Supper
 - d) Collection
- 8) A text can be expounded on:
- a) Nehemiah 8
 - b) Psalm 19
 - c) Colossians 3
- 9) Oft-repeated phrases can be explored:
- a) *"This is a faithful saying"*
 - b) *"Do not be deceived"*
 - c) *"Have you not read?"*
 - d) *"Be of good cheer"*

4. Why is it helpful to organize a lesson into outline form?

It allows the speaker to stay on track without losing his place and it allows the hearers to do the same.

5. What is proper outline formatting?

I. USE ROMAN NUMERALS FOR MAIN POINTS

A. Use capital letters for headings

B. Use capital letters for headings

1. Use Arabic numerals for sub-headings

2. Use Arabic numerals for sub-headings

a. Use lower-case letters for details

b. Use lower-case letters for details

i. Use lower-case Roman numerals for supporting information

ii. Use lower-case Roman numerals for supporting information

II. USE ROMAN NUMERALS FOR MAIN POINTS

Anything more detailed than this is too detailed and will not hold the audience's attention.

6. How can word searches be performed?

Use a Bible computer program like Logos, PC Study Bible or Quickverse. Use an app on your smartphone. Use a traditional book like Cruden's Concordance.

7. How can the original languages be studied?

Computer resources are most helpful. Interlinears, including analytical ones, are very helpful.

8. Are commentaries useful?

They can be, but not always. Start with those written by brethren before venturing into the denominational sources, but don't rely on any of them 100%.

9. Does it matter what Bible version is read from?

Somewhat, yes.

1) Select a reputable translation. Absolutely avoid the most modern versions that are more paraphrases than translations.

- 2) Consistently preach from the same translation, but feel free to cite others when relevant, remembering to mention that you are doing so.
- 3) Maintain some awareness of the versions in use by the members. Don't make it difficult for them to keep pace.

10. May uninspired sources be quoted from?

To a limited extent, yes (Acts 17:28; Titus 1:12), but don't get carried away (1st Timothy 1:3-7; 4:7; 2nd Timothy 4:4).

11. What posture should the speaker assume?

Unless physical inability precludes it, standing is always best (Acts 2:14; 13:16).

Preferably, an elevated position should be used (Nehemiah 8:4; 2nd Chronicles 24:20), although this can be awkward if the congregation is small.

12. What should the speaker do with his mouth?

Open it (Matthew 5:2; Acts 8:35; 10:34)! Don't speak through clenched teeth and don't have anything in your mouth to keep the words from getting out.

13. What should the speaker do with his eyes?

Maintain eye contact (Acts 23:1)! This is a form of engagement and should help to keep attention.

14. What should the speaker do with his hands?

Gesture (Acts 12:17; 13:16)! Hands are useful for communicating, and sometimes are essential to proper expression (Ezekiel 6:11; 21:12).

15. Is it appropriate to incorporate visual aids into the lesson?

It certainly can be (Acts 21:10-11), but not every single time (11:28).

16. Is there an appropriate balance of "positive" to "negative" content?

In some prominent passages the ratio of 2:1 in favor of negative messaging (2nd Timothy 4:2; Jeremiah 1:10). We cannot plant good fruit if thorns and weeds

are in the ground; they have to come up first. We cannot build a new house if a dilapidated one is crumbling in that spot; it has to be demolished first.

Even so, if all we do is focus on removing sin without emphasizing the need to replace bad with good (Luke 11:24-26), then we have failed.

17. How can Scripture citations be referenced?

"It is written" (Acts 1:20) always works!

"Have you not read?" (Matthew 22:31) is suitable.

"Showed in the... passage" (Luke 20:37).

"David himself said by the Holy Spirit" (Mark 12:36).

"The Holy Spirit spoke... by the mouth of David" (Acts 1:16).

"David says" (Acts 2:25).

"God... who by the mouth of Your servant David have said" (Acts 4:25).

"Saying in David" (Hebrews 4:7).

"It is also written in the second Psalm" (Acts 13:33).

"Moses truly said" (Acts 3:22).

"Moses writes" (Romans 10:5).

"As the prophet Isaiah said" (John 1:23).

18. How should every exhortation conclude?

The goal is always to persuade (2nd Corinthians 5:11) the hearers to obey the gospel (1st Corinthians 1:21), so invite them to do exactly that in plain words. Whatever the message was about should segue naturally toward this end.

Do not assume the audience is fully aware of the whole plan of salvation. Enumerate every part.

19. Has the speaker failed if no conversions result or no evidence presents that hearts have changed?

We would not classify Jesus Christ as a failed preacher, but many rejected Him (John 6:60-61, 66: Isaiah 53:3). Noah was a preacher who did not bring anyone but his family aboard the ark (2nd Peter 2:5). What matters is that the seed is sown (Matthew 13:3-9), but we cannot control the soil.