

# COMMUNICATION FOR SERVING THE CHURCH



## SESSION 2 NOTES

# Session 2 Video:

## From Text to Message

Karoline Lewis says in her book, *A Lay Preacher's Guide: How to Craft a Faithful Sermon*, that there are 7 characteristics of a faithful sermon. A faithful sermon is:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the preacher is  
the authority of the \_\_\_\_\_.

According to Timothy Keller, a  
steady diet of biblical preaching  
teaches people how to

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# Steps for going from text to message:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

# Step 1: Choose a Text

It is best to pick one

\_\_\_\_\_ to  
work from.

If you are invited to preach or are  
not preaching regularly pick a  
text that you are

\_\_\_\_\_.

## Step 2: "Translate" the Text

If you do not know the original languages, compare multiple Bible \_\_\_\_\_ from across the spectrum of translation \_\_\_\_\_.

Broadly speaking, there are two major philosophies of Bible translation that form opposite ends of the spectrum:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Pay close attention to the differences between the translations looking especially for:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

After you have done your own investigation, compare your observations with the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ versions.

## Step 3: Find Your Impressions

Read your text until you are able to \_\_\_\_\_ or closely \_\_\_\_\_ it.

Write down all your

\_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, and  
\_\_\_\_\_.

A few tips to help you get going:

1. Do a \_\_\_\_\_ of your text. Go to Biblegateway.com and print out your text.



On your print-out look for and mark:

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

2. Pay close attention to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the passage you are studying.

3. Ask if there an issue of \_\_\_\_\_ that you need help understanding to make sense of the passage.

Help with these initial observations:

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## Step 4: Read Others' Impressions

This is where you consult things like \_\_\_\_\_.

Not all commentaries are created equal. Generally, do not use volumes on the \_\_\_\_\_ by only one \_\_\_\_\_.

Ways to find resources:

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## **Step 5: State the big Idea of your text in one sentence**

Make sure your one sentence is  
\_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_.

This is basically your  
\_\_\_\_\_ in one  
sentence. Once you have this you  
are ready to build that message  
into a \_\_\_\_\_.

# Session 2

## Reflection:

### Discussion and Practice

#### Discussion Questions:

1. What makes a message "Biblical"?
2. What makes a message "authoritative"?
3. If you were invited to speak or teach a Bible class at church next week what text would you choose and why?
4. Which Bible translation(s) do you typically use and why?
5. What do you find difficult about "finding your own impressions" of the text? Why?

Practices:

**1. God's Word Search** - perform a "God's word search" by printing out a text from Biblegateway.com with all the footnotes, cross references, verse numbers, and red letters removed. Then mark it for the things listed on page 9 of the notes.

Don't be shy. Get out markers, pens, crayons, or highlighters. There is no wrong way to do this. Color-code it if you want. Draw arrows showing connections. Write questions and observations out to the side of the text or on the back of the print out.

**2. What's the Big Idea?** Use the list of short passages below to sharpen your skills of summarizing a text in one succinct and catchy sentence. Work on at least 2 passages. Work in groups if you need help thinking through it.

Texts:

- Psalm 23
- Psalm 117
- Matthew 7:1-5
- Matthew 7:24-27
- Philippians 4:10-14
- James 2:1-13
- James 3:1-12

**3. The Sermon in One Sentence.** After completing exercise 2, pick one of the texts you summarized into one sentence. Stand up in front of your classmates and read the text and then say your one sentence summary.