

HOW TO PREPARE BIBLICAL LESSONS - WORKSHEETS

*A study in expository teaching for Sunday School Teachers, Lay Pastors,
and Discipleship Leaders. This is designed as a resource to develop
teachers and hearers that are loyal to the Scripture.*

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Preparing Bible Messages Worksheet 1

Getting the Text in View

Text: _____

In your Bible, using a pencil, underline all the action words in the chosen text (If you do not prefer to write in your Bible, you can make a copy of the text or write out the text). Circle all the important words or words that carry meaning in the text. Write your observations or what you see in the text in the left column of this worksheet. Write your questions in the center column (Make sure you number each of these questions). Utilizing your Bible study tools, (Commentaries, Bible atlas, SS literature, Bible dictionary, etc.) answer the questions in concise, personal terms. Make a parenthetical notation, at the end of each answer, indicating the source.

Observations	Questions	Answers

Preparing Bible Messages Worksheet 2

Bible Themes

Text: _____

Identify and list the themes expressed in the text. Organize the themes using the eight major headings below. Write the themes in the appropriate box.

Action	Naming
Figurative	Works of God
Nature of God	Works of Man
Nature of Man	Directives

Preparing Bible Messages Worksheet 3

Main Idea

Text: _____

Using Worksheet 2, "Bible Themes," answer the following questions. The goal of this step is to choose a theme that is the main idea of the text.

1. List the repeated words or themes in the text.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. Write the figurative words and their meaning. You may have discovered their meaning in your question answer process on Worksheet 1, "Getting the Text in View." If not, use your Bible study tools to discover the meaning of figurative words.

Figurative Words

Meaning

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3. Answer in one word, "What is the text writer talking about"? You are writing one word that is the prominent theme or **main idea**.

4. Is this main idea consistent throughout the text? Does it work in all verses? Does it make the message of the text clear?

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Preparing Bible Messages Worksheet 3 (cont.)

5. List other prominent themes in the text.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

6. In one word, write the theme that most clearly limits the scope of the text writer's main idea. What does the text writer say about the main idea? This is the **limiting theme**.

7. Write a complete sentence using the **main idea** and the **limiting theme** as a working title. Together, the main idea and limiting theme should express the complete idea of the text.

Preparing Bible Messages Worksheet 5

Phrasing Major Points

Text: _____

The goal of this step is to put into carefully worded phrases the text writer's ideas regarding different aspects of his subject. These will serve as the Theological Division Statements of the text and message. This step helps the preacher to take the ideas of the text and present them as God's message for today.

1. Review the list of ideas from worksheet 4, "Supporting Ideas."
2. List all the limiting themes that will be presented in your message. Write the main idea from worksheet 3, number 7, in the space provided. Each of these limiting themes should support the main idea of the text. You are answering the question, "What was the text writer saying about this main idea"? Refer to worksheet 3, number 5, for other limiting themes.

Main Idea from Worksheet 3: _____

Limiting Theme: _____

Limiting Theme: _____

Limiting Theme: _____

Limiting Theme: _____

3. Write the above limiting themes in complete sentences. These will serve as the Theological Division Statements of your message. The goal is to make these theological ideas clear to your audience.

Division Statement 1: _____

Division Statement 2: _____

Division Statement 3: _____

Division Statement 4: _____

4. Go back and check each statement against the following checklist:

- ___ Complete sentences
- ___ Each statement distinct
- ___ Each statement stands alone as a Biblical principle
- ___ Follows logical order of the text
- ___ Supports the main idea of the text
- ___ Worded in simple, contemporary language
- ___ Present tense, universal, theological principles

Preparing Bible Messages Worksheet 6

The People

Text: _____

The goal of this step is to build a bridge between the Biblical idea and the corresponding need in man. Every need of man can be traced to a promise of grace in Scripture.

1. List needs mentioned directly and indirectly in the text as they relate to the original author and audience.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. Use the following categories to describe the person who needs to hear the message of the text as a solution for his needs.

- a. Symptoms of the problems he is experiencing:

- b. His possible beliefs about the problems:

- c. Possible consequences of his problems:

- d. Feelings of a person experiencing these problems:

3. Using the four categories above, write a description of this person. Identify his problem, pain, and consequences. Provide interest for him in the good news of the text as a solution to his problems.

Preparing Bible Messages Worksheet 7

Word Pictures and Stories

Text: _____

The goal of this step is to teach your audience a Biblical idea by using familiar images that will help them understand what you mean.

1. Write the Theological Division Statement you are to teach.

2. Circle the subject and limiting theme in each statement. Write the subject and limiting theme here: _____.
3. Think through the areas of life listed below for word pictures and stories that are natural expressions of your subject and limiting theme. Write as many as you can.

Family

Nature

Food

Children

Business

History

Animals

Travel

Athletics

Friendships

World Events

Other

4. Circle the story above that you can most effectively use to present the Theological Division Statement to your audience.
5. On the back of this page, write out the story in specific, detailed, and descriptive language. Write it as you might present it in order to bring the point of the Theological Division Statement to your audience.
6. Repeat this step for each Theological Division Statement.

Preparing Bible Messages Worksheet 8

Application

Text: _____

1. Write the Theological Division Statement you are to teach.

2. Is there an application in the text related to this statement? If so, what is it?

3. What is the response for which your Theological Division Statement calls?

4. Circle as many of the following approaches to application that can be used for your Theological Division Statement. Make a note beside each indicating how the application can be made.

Reason Behind Instructions

Real Events Used to Teach Lesson

A Deeper Meaning to Commands

Use of Parables

Situation People Might Face

Describe Wrong Behavior

Use Imagery for Analogies

Appeal to Hearer's Commitments

Use of Exaggerated Language

5. Choose the application that best expresses the Theological Division Statement and best fits your audience. Emphasize the character of God, power of God, intentions of God, and faithfulness of God in the past when calling for a response in faith.

6. Write the application with clear and practical language. The audience should be certain about the practical actions they can take to put the Theological Division Statement to work in their lives. The emphasis of the application is always to trust God. The goal of the application is to present to the hearers specific ways to trust God.

7. Repeat this step for each Theological Division Statement.

Preparing Bible Messages Worksheet 9

Preaching for Faith

Text: _____

Write the main idea of the text (Worksheet 3) and each of your Theological Division Statements (Worksheet 5). List under each statement ways to present the truth in Christ-centered words that encourage the audience to trust Him.

1. **Main Idea** and Limiting Theme in a sentence:

Faith Language to communicate this Idea:

2. **Theological Division Statement:**

Faith Language to communicate this Idea:

3. **Theological Division Statement:**

Faith Language to communicate this Idea:

4. **Theological Division Statement:**

Faith Language to communicate this Idea:

5. **Theological Division Statement:**

Faith Language to communicate this Idea:

Preparing Bible Messages Worksheet 10

Outlining the Message

Text: _____

The goal of this step is to organize your message to reflect the structure of the text in the way the writer presents his ideas.

1. Write your Main Idea and a statement that introduces that idea. Use Worksheet 7, "Word Pictures and Stories," to develop an introductory story that illustrates the Main Idea.
2. Write your description of the person who needs to hear the solution offered in the text (see worksheet 6, "The People").
3. What question does the main idea answer? Write the sermon idea as a question using who, what, when, where, why, or how. This question seeks answers in the text.

-
4. Write your First Theological Division Statement:

-
- a. Write ideas gathered from the text and research of the text for explaining this statement. **Explanation** is to help the audience understand the truth.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- b. Include the **Illustration** for this statement from worksheet 7. Illustration is used to illuminate the truth in the audience's mind.
 - c. Include the **Application** for this statement from worksheet 8. Application calls for change and action in a faith response as a result of the truth.
5. Repeat step 4 for each Theological Division Statement.
 6. Write a closing illustration using worksheet 7. Instead of illustrating a Division Statement, you will illustrate the Main Idea again.
 7. Restate each Theological Division Statement.
 8. Restate the appeal for action with emphasis on faith in God. You want to lead people to the belief that they can follow God in a faith response because He will enable them to do so.