

Sermon Outline Templates

#1

Traditional 3-Point Sermon Template

*This is a traditional three-point sermon template.
Each point includes explanation, illustration, and application blocks.*

INTRODUCTION

1

Point #1: _____

EXPLANATION

Explain Point #1: _____

ILLUSTRATION

Illustrate your point: _____

APPLICATION

Apply this point to your audience: _____

2

Point #2: _____

EXPLANATION

Explain Point #2: _____

ILLUSTRATION

Illustrate your point: _____

APPLICATION

Apply this point to your audience: _____

3

Point #3: _____

EXPLANATION

Explain Point #3: _____

ILLUSTRATION

Illustrate your point: _____

APPLICATION

Apply this point to your audience: _____

CONCLUSION

Place the conclusion of your message, here: _____

#2

The ME-WE-GOD- YOU-WE Method

Created by Andy Stanley, this preaching outline uses a simple formula to communicate the text's big idea in a conversational manner.

1

ME

HOW DO I STRUGGLE WITH THIS?

Here, the communicator introduces a dilemma they have faced or are currently facing.

2

WE

HOW DO WE ALL STRUGGLE WITH THIS?

Find common ground with your audience around the same or a similar dilemma.

3

GOD

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THIS?

Transition to the text to discover what God says about the tension or question you've introduced.

4

YOU

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO ABOUT THIS?

Challenge your audience to act on what they've just heard.

5

WE

HOW CAN WE ALL LIVE THIS OUT TOGETHER?

Close with several statements about what could happen in your community, your church, or the world if everybody embraced that particular truth.

CITATION

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#3

Verse-by-Verse Running Commentary

This template is designed to help pastors work verse-by-verse through a particular biblical text. Included are blocks for illustrations and application.

INTRODUCTION

1

First Set of Verses (_____)

EXPLANATION

Dig into the selected text: _____

ILLUSTRATION

Illustrate your point: _____

2

Second Set of Verses (_____)

EXPLANATION

Dig into the selected text: _____

ILLUSTRATION

Illustrate your point: _____

3

Third Set of Verses (_____)

EXPLANATION

Dig into the selected text: _____

ILLUSTRATION

Illustrate your point: _____

APPLICATION

Apply the passage to your audience: _____

CONCLUSION

Place the conclusion of your message, here: _____

#4

The Defender's Outline

*Work through this template when using apologetics to teach
or defend a tenet of the Christian faith.*

INTRODUCTION

1

Explain the Biblical Principle

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

Dig into what the Bible teaches regarding this topic. _____

2

Consider Objections

WHAT ARGUMENTS DO PEOPLE WHO DISAGREE WITH THE BIBLE OFFER?

Walk through objections to the biblical principle, citing the strengths of each. _____

3

Offer a Defense

WHAT REASONS DO WE HAVE TO BELIEVE THE BIBLE?

What are the weaknesses of those objections? What arguments do we have in favor of the biblical principle? _____

4

Provide Application

HOW SHOULD THIS BIBLICAL TRUTH CHANGE THE WAY WE LIVE?

Apply the biblical principle, here. _____

#5

Timothy Keller's Expository Message Outline

*This expository outline gives sermons a gospel-shaped,
fall-redemption-restoration plotline.*

1

Here's What We Face

WHAT THE PROBLEM IS

What problem is the text addressing? How does contemporary culture understand and react to this topic?

2

What You Must Do

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

In every text of the Scripture there are imperatives, moral norms for how we should live. That norm may be seen in what we learn about the character of God or Christ, or in the good or bad example of characters in the text, or in explicit commands, warnings, and summonses.

3

But You Can't

WHY WE CAN'T DO IT

This moral imperative always presents a crisis, for when properly understood, the practical and moral obligations of the Scripture is impossible for human beings to meet.

4

But There Was One Who Did

HOW JESUS DID IT

Christ is the ultimate embodiment of the moral norm and the only way to become people who can begin to follow it.

5

Only Now We Can Change

HOW THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS YOU SHOULD LIVE NOW

Spell out practical ways that faith in Christ should shape our lives in this area.

CITATION

Adapted with permission from PREACHING: COMMUNICATING FAITH IN AN AGE OF SKEPTICISM by Timothy Keller (New York: Viking, 2005), 231-233.

#6

The Youth Pastor

*This template is designed to help youth leaders communicate the Bible
in a way that's both creative and applicable for teenagers.*

1

Capture

BIG IDEA OF THE LESSON

At the beginning of the sermon, include an illustration that will capture your students' attention and direct them to the Big Idea of the Message. Illustrations include stories, video clips, pictures, songs, and object lessons.

2

Connect

BIBLE PASSAGE

DIRECT THEM TO GOD'S WORD

During this section, explore your Bible passage. What was the author of this text trying to teach their original audience?

3

Consider

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TODAY?

Here, you'll connect your passage to the world of your students. What does this mean for them today?

ILLUSTRATION

Illustrate the principle here.

4

Collide

WHERE GOD'S WORD MEETS OUR EVERYDAY LIFE

In this section, give specific examples to your students on how they can apply this message to their life.

5

Call

RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

What in-service response do you want the students to take? Altar call? Communion? Something else? Place that here.

#7

The Children's Leader

*This template, designed for children's leaders, will help kids understand
and apply the teachings of Scripture.*

1

Introduction

OPENING HOOK

Begin your lesson with an attention-grabbing illustration. _____

BIG IDEA OF THE LESSON

In one memorable sentence, state the big idea of your lesson. _____

2

Word of the Day

WORD

”

DEFINITION

Describe unfamiliar terms from the lesson in language children can understand. _____

3

Bible Story

BIBLE VERSE

EXPLANATION OF STORY OR PASSAGE

Explain this week's Bible story. _____

4

Interpretation and Application

ILLUSTRATION

Use an object lesson, story, or skit to help children interpret and apply this passage to their life. _____

APPLICATION

Give children specific ideas on how to apply the Bible story to their life. _____

5

Reflect - Small Groups

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

6

Review - Game

GAME

Use a game to review lesson material. _____



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