

Preaching

1 Corinthians 2:2 – For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Would you like to preach? Maybe you don't yet know whether you would like it or be able to do it, or maybe you can't wait to try it!

Today you will get the opportunity to give preaching a try.

And if you're already giving sermons? Then this day will give you an opportunity for growth in preaching, to gain more knowledge, and to receive feedback from your fellow students.

First let's have a look at a few basic principles of good preaching, and after that each one of you gets a chance to try it out.

Basic principles:

1. "Christ centered preaching"
2. Speak from your relationship with God; from the guidance of the Holy Spirit (start with prayer, think calmly about it, read the Bible)
3. Pray and think about your audience; who are they, what do they already know, and what not, what would God want to give them?
4. Your sermon should first of all be about getting to know God. Who is God? Build the faith of your audience. Make clear how obedience follows logically from this faith (obedience is also about trusting God, in action).
5. Put the principles you have learned in the subject "Bible study" into practice.
6. Make 1 point clear; let everything center around this one point you want to make
7. Do not talk too long (boring); no needless repetitions, extras, digression, diversions, too many examples or Bible verses, too many points, too much information, or not being able to come to an end, etcetera.

Structure:

- a. Catching introduction: e.g. a short story, something personal
- b. Make your point from the Bible (core message)

c. Catching ending: e.g. a call to action, core Bible verse, prayer

Ask yourself these three questions about your audience:

1. What do you want to tell them?
2. What do you want them to feel?
3. What do you want them to do?

Use in your sermon:

1. Stories
2. Humor
3. Something personal
4. Simplicity
5. Clear structure
6. Lively language
7. And of course: Bible verses

How do you find a subject for a sermon?

There are many possibilities the Holy Spirit can inspire:

- a. During your personal Bible study time
- b. During prayer
- c. In conversations with others, who give you an idea
- d. From good teaching from other christians in books, articles, sermons, movies etcetera.
- e. From information from GCI (website)
- f. From preaching ideas on internet sites (see course map)
- g. Because God simply gives you the subject when you start with your preparation for the sermon.

Put it into practice

You now will have the chance to try to preach. It doesn't have to be awesome immediately; this is about tasting it for the first time.

If you like preaching, there are many possibilities to help you develop it. Discuss it with your course leader!

Choose one of the subjects from the list you have been handed out, or find your own subject. Take half an hour to prepare a short sermon of about 5 to 10 minutes, and go through the basic principles we have discussed, as well as through the list of questions you find at the bottom of the list of subjects.

Then, everyone who wants to, may come and deliver his short sermon. We can give each other feedback, with this one rule: we will give many positive remarks, and not more than 1 suggestion for improvement.

Evaluation:

How did you like working on a sermon?

How was your experience in listening to the sermons of your fellow students? Did you learn from them?

It may be, that you have a gift of teaching that should be used in another way than by giving sermons.

You might think of:

1. Leading small groups
2. Making and developing bible study material
3. Writing articles
4. Teaching children
5. Teaching teenagers
6. And so on

We will now pass on a sign up list, on which you can write down whether you are interested in learning more about preaching, or gaining more experience in it.