

# **Preaching Across the Pews**

## **Basics**

### **Dos**

- Memorize your sermon!
- Come prepared, meaning you should have practiced your sermon and have your sermon in a notebook and/or electronic device.
- Use an illustration.
- Breathe and take pauses while you preach.
- Watch for time cues.
- Make eye contact.
- Preach truth, not gray. Don't be afraid to acknowledge right and wrong according to the scriptures.
- Exalt God to lead those who listen to ascribe to the Lord.
- Preach with accuracy.
- Let them see God's goodness!
- Develop your points evenly as if each has equal importance.
- Remember verse context and incorporate verse meaning properly.
- Use we in your sermon, not you.
- Preach to our faith statement.

### **Don'ts**

- Do not deliver your sermon in an expressionless voice. This can often happen when reading your sermon vs memorizing the content.
- Do not shout at the congregation during the entirety of your preaching.
- Develop highs and lows in voice levels.
- There's a difference between shouting and elevating your voice. Shouting muddies your voice in the mic. Further, many listeners completely turn it off.
- Do not ignore time cues.
- Do not use whole scriptures on your slides except for your key or foundational scripture.

- Do not tell the media team –“next slide please” if you have prepared your sermon, sent in your clear outline stating when each slide is to be put up, they will do so. If you do not, then your slides should not be put up if you have to direct the slideshow from the pulpit.
- Do not stray off from your topic.
- Do not talk at the speed of light.
- Do not go over or under your allotted time.
- Don’t open with a long string of verses or you will lose your listeners right away.

### **Obstacles**

- Consider you may preach to the biblically illiterate and/or theologians so make sure you are completely prepared.
- The cultural makeup of our church continues to change.
- Each service has a different cultural flavor.

### **Diversity**

#### **Postmodernism**

- Choose words carefully. Not everyone interprets theological terms, nor do all people understand cultural slang.
- Expect different worldviews.
  - We live in a postmodern world with multiple truths.
  - Don’t expect your listeners to have a Christian worldview.
  - The view of many in the congregation can mirror the streets
- Look for new opportunities with changing viewpoints.
- Let the listener see the process by which you arrived at your conclusions. For example: frame questions, limit the number of ideas, back up your statement with facts, develop your thoughts.

## Cultural Intelligence Strategies

- Know your audience and preach culturally sensitive (think of Schein's levels)  
You're not preaching to yourself.
  - Pray on the needs of your audience.
  - Determine the goals and purposes of your sermon for this group
  - What background concerns of the listeners do you need to know (i.e., socio economic issues)?
  - What gets in the way of effective preaching for the listeners?
  - What works well for the listeners?
  - Consider how you can involve the listeners in the sermon (i.e., silence, eye contact, platform position, call-and-response).
- Determine common ground with the audience.
- Bridge cultural boundaries.
- Overcome barriers of exclusion.
- Consider the approach you use in sermon construction. Narrative sermons reach the postmodern generation since it relates a story as opposed to a structured sermon for the modernity generation. Perhaps, combine the two styles.
- Incorporate cultural frames, meaning preach within the setting with familiar language and illustrations. (Listen and watch Pastor Dan as he preaches to the young people. Everything falls within their cultural frame)
- Preach to multiple intelligences as you learned in class today.
- Remember, you want your message to proclaim the gospel in a way that does not compromise its integrity.
- **KEY: Do not use the lingo Pastor Dan does. (Like bye, bye Felicia) You are not Pastor Dan!**