

Preaching resource

Thanks for taking the time to work through this. We have written this resource to set out the expectations we have for speakers at Lifegate church.

Our Vision

The vision of Lifegate Church is, **to see people live in the freedom and purpose that Jesus has for our lives.** We want every area of church life to pursue this vision including in our preaching.

Defining our vision

- **Living in Freedom-** When we talk about living in the freedom that Jesus has for our lives, we are talking about living in the reality of what Jesus has given us through His life, death and resurrection. Jesus has made a way for us to be free from sin, sickness, disease, demonic oppression, fear, shame, guilt, materialism, pursuing desires of the flesh and the list goes on.
- **Living with Purpose-** When we talk about living with the purpose that Jesus has for our lives, we are talking about living under His authority as King. God calls us to love Him and love people. He calls us to give, love, share the message of Jesus, serve others, lay down our lives, know God, know His word, pray, etc., in summary, to live a life that fulfils all that God desires of us.

As preachers, our main focus must be **to see people live in the freedom and purpose that Jesus has for our lives.** In the book “Communicating for Change” the author says people preach for 3 reasons.

1. **Teach the Bible to People.** This method is about giving Bible knowledge to people.
2. **Teach people the Bible.** The emphasis here is on taking people into account when preparing. Common is 3 points and application approach.
3. **Teach people how to live a life that reflects the Bible's values, principles, and truths.** In short, **the goal is change.**

At Lifegate we want to go for point 3 above. We want to see lives changed. We want people to live in the freedom and purpose that Jesus has for them, and this must be the focus of our preaching.

Our Values

Our values statements came from our vision. We went about creating values that helped us achieve the vision. We came up with 2 values.

1. **Get Real-** Getting real is about deliberately seeking out what God is saying to us. We then examine our lives and assess how our lives align with God’s truth.
2. **Take Action-** Taking action is about putting into action God’s will for our lives

We want our preachers to emphasise these values. This is seen by;

- Teaching God’s word so people can get real about what God says.
- Focus on showing people how to live out God’s word- Helping people get real and take action.
- We want our preachers to share real stories of their own lives. Stories where they have got it wrong, and also stories where there have put into practice God’s truth in their lives. This empowers others to share their struggles and celebrations.

Our Core Beliefs

At Lifegate, God’s word is our ultimate authority. We understand that many churches would hold the same view, but have interpreted it differently. So we have created a list of core beliefs that set out what we believe on certain topics.

We believe:

- The Bible is the living word of God – infallible as originally given and the supreme authority in all Christian doctrine and lifestyle.
- In one eternal God who is the Creator of all things. He exists in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
- We are created to worship God and do all things for His glory.
- Sin has separated each of us from God.
- The Lord Jesus Christ, who is both fully God and fully man, is the only One who can reconcile us to God.

- In the Lord Jesus' virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His ministry and miracles, in His death on a cross in our place, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father and in His imminent return.
- In the person and work of the Holy Spirit with His fruit and gifts available for all believers.
- In order to come into relationship with God, we must repent of our sins and put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Our eternal destination of either Heaven or Hell is determined by our response to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- God's desire for us is that we are baptised in water and then empowered by being baptised in the Holy Spirit. We then live a Spirit-filled life by being continually filled with the Holy Spirit.
- In an enemy called the devil, whose purpose is to steal, kill and destroy. The devil has been defeated by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- God's desire is to bring release and freedom for those who are bound up in sin, in sickness or in pain and/or oppressed.

Although not stated in our core beliefs we would also add the following;

- Marriage is between a man and a woman.
- Any form of sexual relationship outside the marriage covenant is sin.
- The early parts of Genesis to be taught as historical events.

We expect that all our preachers will speak messages in line with these core beliefs.

It is wise, when speaking about areas of the bible where there are a variety of opinions, we preface what we say by saying something like "I understand there are different perspectives in Christendom on this, but I am going to tell you what I think". An example would be different opinions on the return of Jesus.

5 priorities we encourage

We encourage these following priorities at Lifegate because we believe that doing these things will help people live in the freedom and purpose Jesus has for our lives.

1. **Sunday services**- Encountering God through worship music, Word, and prayer. Community. Celebration. Opportunity to Make a difference
2. **Lifegroups**- accountability, deeper connections, growth
3. **Making a difference**- using God-given gifts/ passions to serve God's people and the world
4. **Foundations**- Our main discipleship tool. This helps people come to faith and lays the foundations of the Christian life. We encourage people to complete it and also invite others to do it with them.
5. **Personal time with Jesus**- This is building a deep personal relationship with God daily.

We ask our preachers to include these 5 priorities whenever they can do so. Here are some examples;

- "In Lifegroup a few weeks ago....."
- "In my Personal time with Jesus I read....."
- "I have the privilege to make a difference in the lives of....."
- "I am currently taking a person through Foundations and what struck me..."

Target group

We target 34-year-old men and their families. This man is most likely tertiary educated and works as a teacher in a school. He is married and has 2 small kids. His wife works part-time and their family earns \$140k per year. They are paying rent with the desire to buy a house or they have purchased a home with a large mortgage. Therefore they haven't got a lot of disposable income. The kids keep the parents busy after school and on weekends so they don't have a lot of time.

They are looking for a church that is relevant to their lives. A place the kids love. The teaching is Biblically sound, easy to understand, clearly structured and focuses on transformation. The music is contemporary and creates an opportunity for people to encounter God. It's a place where they can build deep friendships. The youth and young adults are flourishing which creates a vision for their kids to grow into. A church that isn't too busy because they haven't got much time to give. There are opportunities for the family to Make a difference in the church and community. A place where they can invite unsaved family and friends.

Why do we have a target group?

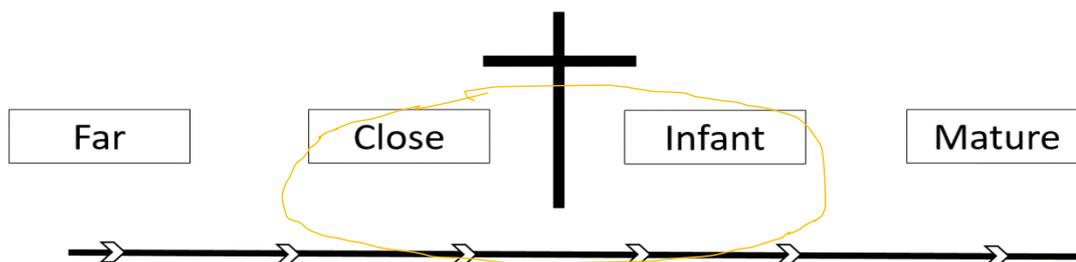
We state our target group clearly because we want our preachers to know where to aim the messages. This is currently our Sunday morning target group. As preachers, we need to be thinking about what this 34-year-old man and his wife are dealing with in their lives right now.

These are some things that these people are most likely dealing with:

- Having a healthy marriage
- Raising their kids well
- Balancing- work, church, family, Personal time with Jesus
- New friendships
- Managing family relationships- (in laws, grandparents)
- Setting financial goals
- Promotions at work
- Buying a house

Focus

We are a church that deliberately aims our Sunday services and major ministries at those who are close to committing their lives to Jesus and those who are new (infant) in their faith.



For preachers, this means sharing biblical truths in ways that those who are “close” and “infants” can understand. This looks like:

- **Explain Bible words** like Christ, Messiah, redemption, New Testament, covenant, etc..
- **Explain biblical concepts** such as salvation, baptism, and communion.
- **Give clear instructions** on actions or responses. For example, when leading communion, explain the meaning of the bread and juice and how and when to take them. You might say, *“At Lifegate, we encourage you to come forward, take the biscuit and juice, return to your seat, and eat and drink whenever you’re ready.”*
- **Tailor your message content.** Teach biblical truth, but avoid going too deep during Sunday services, which are aimed at those who are “infants” or “close” to faith. Believers seeking more depth can study further on their own or with like-minded people in a Lifegroup.

For those with strong Bible knowledge, Sunday services might not offer new insights but will remind them of familiar truths and encourage them to live them out. The real issue isn't lack of knowledge but lack of obedience—we often know more than we practice.

Other practical things

- **Length-** We want our preaching messages to be between 22-28 minutes.
- **Structure-** We want a clear structure. Where those you are listening can follow.
- **Say 1 thing-** We want people to remember what we say, so say 1 thing.
- **Title-** have a title for your message for online church
- **Summarise your message in 1 sentence-** this is about being clear in what you are going to say. If you can your message in 1 sentence it means it is clear in your mind.
- **Use a PowerPoint-** For big ideas, bible verses, and questions. (See section below on Powerpoint)
- **We don't tear down other Christians or churches.** We celebrate the body of Christ, even those we don't agree with.
- **Be yourself-** Let your personality come out, share your own stories.

Writing a message

There are multiple parts to writing a message. Below will give you 4 helpful steps.

1. Understanding and applying the text
2. Putting the message together.
3. Powerpoint
4. Presentation

Step 1. - Understanding and Applying the Bible

This is the most important step. We believe the Bible is the living word of God – infallible as originally given, and the supreme authority in all Christian doctrine and lifestyle. It is through the Bible that God speaks most clearly to us. So whether we are preparing to give a talk, Bible study or doing our own personal quiet time, we must understand the text properly and apply it to our lives. To understand the text means to get into the head of the writer and identify with them so that we comprehend what they are trying to say or what they mean by the text.

We must understand Scripture correctly. If we misunderstand a passage of Scripture it could lead to an incorrect understanding of who God is, or who we are, which could result in poor lifestyle choices.

Below are some steps to help you understand the text and then apply the text to your life:

Understanding Scripture

1. Pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal to you the truth of Scripture.
2. Read the passage about 3 times.
3. What style of writing is it? (Letter, parable, NT/OT, poetry, wisdom literature etc..)
4. Who wrote it?
5. When was it written?
6. Who was it written to?
7. Why was it written?
8. Put the passage in context. What is around the text? In the chapter, in the book, in the Bible?
9. What are the words/phrases/verses that need explanation? (Words like “Therefore,” “so,” “Messiah,” “Son of man.”) Remember to: *Interpret Scripture with Scripture.*
10. Are there references to other parts of the Bible?
11. Who are the main characters?
12. What are the key themes in the passage?
13. What is the main point/“big idea” of the text?

Applying Scripture

14. How does this passage speak to us?
15. What issues does the passage raise that challenge the way I live?

Finally, Get Outside Help

16. Go to Bible dictionaries/ concordances/ commentaries to get help and to see if your understanding agrees with Bible scholars. (See “helpful resources” in the next section)

Helpful resources

There are many resources available to help you understand and apply the Bible. Keep in mind that these resources come from various perspectives, so it's important to ensure they align with our Christian worldview. Over time, you'll identify which ones are trustworthy. Additionally, even those who differ from you on some issues can offer valuable insights in areas where you agree.

So here is a list of resources

1. Different versions of the Bible

Looking at different Bible versions is a great way to start studying a passage. Bible translators are experts, so it's helpful to see how different versions translate the same text. Keep in mind that each version was created with a specific purpose:

- **New King James Version (NKJV):** A literal, word-for-word translation.
- **English Standard Version (ESV):** Another literal, word-for-word translation.
- **New International Version (NIV):** A balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought translation.
- **New Living Translation (NLT):** Clear and easy-to-read modern English, blending word-for-word and thought-for-thought.
- **Contemporary English Version (CEV):** Simple and straightforward, focused on thought-for-thought translation.
- **The Message:** A paraphrase, offering what the writer thinks the text means rather than a direct translation.

If you are studying the Bible, it is important to use more literal versions like the ESV, NKJV or NIV

Here is an article that goes into more detail. – [Versions of the Bible](#)

2. Study Bibles

A study bible like the ESV study Bible or NIV Life application Bible study Bibles are outstanding resources. They provide valuable insights into the historical, cultural, and literary context of biblical passages. Through introductions, footnotes, maps, and charts, they help you to better understand the background and setting of each book. These help the reader to grasp the significance of events, customs, and teachings within their original content. They also provide application on how to live out the Biblical truths.

3. Bible Dictionaries

Bible dictionaries contain definitions of key words found in Scripture. More info here-

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-dictionary.html>

4. Bible Concordance

A concordance contains an alphabetical index of words used in the Bible and the main Bible references where the word occurs. More info here- <https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-concordance.html>

5. Commentaries

A Bible commentary is a series of notes explaining the meaning of passages of Scripture. See more here-

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-commentary.html>

There are many outstanding commentaries. Here are two;

1. The Bible Speaks today series – About \$25 per book of the bible
2. The New international commentary on the New Testament/ Old testament- about \$80 per book of the bible.

6. Bible software/ apps.

There are many Bible software and apps to help you access resources. Here are two excellent options:

1. **Logos Bible Software:** A paid app that includes many resources with the initial purchase. You can also buy more books later, but it's expensive.
2. **Olive Tree:** A free app with basic resources. You can buy high-quality eBooks on the app, often at discounted prices during sales—cheaper than hard copies.

7. Online resources.

Again you need to be careful what you read as anybody can put anything on the internet. Here are some really helpful resources.

Bible Gateway	An online platform offering a variety of Bible translations, study tools, and reading plans for easy access to Scripture.
Biblehub	A Bible study tool with a wide range of resources, including commentaries, dictionaries, and cross-references.
Bible Study Tools	Provides access to a variety of Bible versions, commentaries, devotionals, and study aids.
Christianity.com	A comprehensive Christian resource offering articles, Bible studies, and devotionals on various faith-related topics.
Enduring Word	Offers free Bible commentary and study resources to help explain and apply the Scriptures.
Bible Project	A nonprofit that creates animated videos and study resources to explore the Bible's themes and structure.
Blue letter Bible	A tool for in-depth Bible study with access to original language tools, commentaries, and dictionaries.
Got questions	Provides answers to various biblical and theological questions from a Christian perspective.
https://www.impact360institute.org/	An organization offering resources and training for Christian students, focused on biblical worldview and leadership.
https://carm.org/	(Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry): A Christian apologetics website offering articles and resources defending the faith.
https://biblespeak.org/	Provides audio Bible translations and resources for Bible study and learning.
https://crossexamined.org/	A site for apologetics and resources aimed at defending Christianity and answering tough questions about the faith.
https://www.str.org/	(Stand to Reason): A Christian apologetics ministry focused on equipping believers to defend their faith with clarity and respect.
https://coldcasechristianity.com/	A website offering resources for investigating the truth of Christianity from a detective's perspective.
https://www.youtube.com/@RedPenLogic	A YouTube channel offering logical and respectful responses to challenging worldviews and beliefs.
https://biblethinker.org/	Provides teachings, explanations, and resources on theological topics and Bible study.
Ask NT Wright Anything	A podcast where theologian NT Wright answers questions about faith, theology, and the Bible.
https://www.impact360institute.org/	great resource on many topics
https://www.thegoldenreport.com/	A ministry focused on sharing news and insights about Israel and the Middle East from a biblical perspective.
https://jewsforjesus.org/learning	Offers resources for learning about Jewish perspectives on Jesus and provides outreach to Jewish communities.
https://michaeljkruger.com/featured-resources-new/	Offers a range of academic resources and articles from Dr. Michael J. Kruger, focused on early Christianity and the New Testament.

Step 2- Putting the message together

Before you go about putting the message together, you must ensure you have completed the 16 questions above. Do not go any further until it is done. Then work through the following.

1. **Pray-** We want every message to be God's word to us. So ask Him to lead you and guide you.
2. **1 thing-** Based on what you have learnt above, ask yourself **What is the 1 thing you want people to take home from hearing this message?** Your answer should be around change/ transformation. Your answer should be about people living in the freedom and purpose Jesus has for their lives. Another way of saying it, is what is the next step you want people to take? Once you know what the 1 thing is, then build your message around it.
3. **Brainstorm-** The next step is to brainstorm/ write down your ideas.
Think about;
 - the stories from your life/others' lives that reinforce the point of the message.
 - Think about what parts of the text you are going to present. (You can't say everything)
 - Think about the structure
 - Is there a physical object that can be reinforce the 1 thing?
4. **Put the structure together-** in point form write down the order of your ideas.
 - a. Start with something from your own life that introduces the topic.
 - b. Include those you are speaking to and talk about how they may relate to the topic.
 - c. Share the Bible text and the meaning of the text
 - d. Talk about how this text relates to our lives and how to live out the truth of this Scripture
 - e. Finally talk about what life would be like if we all had this new way of living.

This structure above comes from the book entitled "**Communicating for Change**". The summary of this book is at the end of this resource. The author gives an excellent structure that we regularly use at Lifegate and can help you in your presentation so that the message creates change. The structure is....

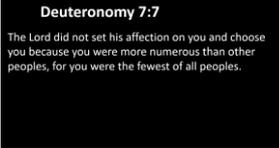
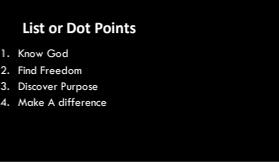
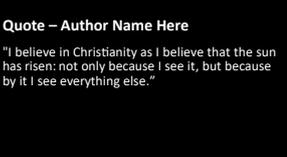
- Me
- WE
- God
- You
- WE

You can see this in detail at the end of this resource. We highly recommend you read through it and try this structure. You don't have to use this structure, but it is a great place to start.

5. **Write out the message word for word.** – Write down every word you plan to say. That way you can time it and practise it.

Step 3- Powerpoint

We like to use PowerPoint because it helps people remember what we say. We use PowerPoint for big ideas, bible verses, questions, etc. In the table below we have designed slides for you to use. We do this because we need to import your PowerPoint slides into pro presenter (our media program for what we show on the screen on Sundays) and then assign every slide a different function so they look correct for online church. So please stick to the formats below. You can find the format [here](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/OAJNqarokMVFPuk9PVA). <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/OAJNqarokMVFPuk9PVA>

 <p>Speaker Name Role at Lifegate</p>	<p>On the first slide put your name and where you are from.</p> <p>Example</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jo Smith Lifegate Prestons</p>
 <p>Title, Question or Main Point</p>	<p>This is the title of the message, or the question you want to ask, or the big idea/ main point</p>
 <p>Deuteronomy 7:7 The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.</p>	<p>This is for bible text. It is best to put one verse per slide. Two verses are okay if they are short. Be 4 lines maximum.</p>
 <p>List or Dot Points</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Know God 2. Find Freedom 3. Discover Purpose 4. Make A difference 	<p>This is for dot points. Put in a heading then dot points below. Here's an example:</p> <p>3 Types of Faith</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Saving faith 2. Resting faith 3. Saving faith
 <p>Quote – Author Name Here</p> <p>"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."</p>	<p>This is for a quote. Again no more than 4 lines. Use more than one slide if you need to.</p>

Sometimes preachers use **pictures or videos**. Only use them if they are going to help you present your message. If you are using a video, do not include the video in your PowerPoint. Rather save the video in a separate file. Then save your PowerPoint in 2 sections.

- Section 1- before the video.
- Section 2 - after the video.

This makes it easier for the person using Pro presenter.

Finally, **give your PowerPoint on a USB to the person serving on the computer a minimum of 40 minutes before the service.**

Step 4- The Presentation

The way something is said can carry more weight than the actual words used. So how we present is of high importance.

Here are some things to consider;

1. **Memorise your message** – It is okay to have notes with you but look at them sparingly. You are speaking **TO** people, which means you need to look at them when you are speaking. Internalise your message so well that it is “your story”. You don’t need notes for your story.
2. **Be early-** Be at the service a minimum of 40 minutes before, so you can give your USB to the person on computer, do a sound check and join the prayer meeting before the service.
3. **Move-** Moving on the platform helps create interest and variety. Don’t move too much or too quickly, that would be distracting. Here are some things to consider
 - Move from one side of the platform to the other when you are comparing 2 ideas/ behaviours
 - Step forward when you have something really important to say
 - Step backward when you want people to see how big something is, or something was a shock to you
4. **Be confident** – Confidence helps people feel relaxed and want to listen. You build confidence by knowing you are prepared and you have a message to bring. Speak confidently as if God is speaking through you- because He is. *Do not make excuses for being nervous or only preparing at the last minute.*
5. **Be gentle-** We don’t yell at people, demand people, put guilt on people, or manipulate people. Rather we encourage, guide, and give people choice.
6. **Have variety in your speech.** There are times to talk loudly- but not all the time. There are times to talk softly- but not all the time. There are times to talk slowly- that’s 99% of the time.
7. **Be confident with technology/ clicker.** Have a practise before the service.
8. **Dress appropriately.** Meaning dress like those you are speaking to.
9. **Finish-** As you finish your message, invite the worship team to the stage and while they are setting up, pray for the congregation. Allow the worship team to lead singing and then after a few minutes of worship, return to the platform and invite the prayer team to come forward and then invite the congregation to receive prayer. After the invitation, release the church and the worship team will start playing again while people are being prayed for and others leave. (This last bit is a bit tricky, so if you prefer the MC to do it, that is okay just communicate that to the MC)

Speaking online

We are currently recording our Padstow services and then choosing which parts of the services to show the following week for the online service. Our desire is to start to record the Prestons Campus messages as well with the same purpose. So when you are speaking, assume you are being recorded and what you say will be shown on our online service. As such there are some things we need to be aware of.

Powerpoint presentation.

We want the people watching online to follow the powerpoint presentation. Therefore it essential that the preacher sets up the powerpoint correctly and give its to the person on computer 40 minutes before the service in order for the slides to formatted properly. (See the previous section above on Powerpoints for more info)

Preaching

We want to include those online and help them feel a part of our service. So here are some things to do:

- When you get up to speak introduce yourself, say you are from Lifegate Prestons/ Padstow
- Acknowledge those online and those in the room.
- When you talk to those online look straight at the camera.

- Throughout your message, try to refer to those online a couple of times.

Here are some examples.

- Say something like *“If you are watching this online or here In the room I am sure you can relate to this”*
- If you are asking the congregation a question. *“If you are in the room turn to the person next to you and discuss this question, or if you are watching online put a comment in the chat or talk to the person you are watching this with”*
- Pray for those watching “online” and “in the room”

A few other things.

- If possible, try not to refer to the time or date. We usually use the message the following week
- Do put yourself in the shoes of someone watching at home.
 - What do they see?
 - What do they hear?
 - What is their experience?

Preaching Marking guidelines

If we want to get better at something we must reflect on how we did in order to improve. This Preaching Marking Guidelines helps you reflect on your message, filtering it through what we are looking for from our preachers at Lifegate. Use it as a checklist before you speak, or a marking guide after. Give yourself a mark out for each section and then add up your scores for a mark out of 30. If you are game, why not give this to someone to assess you.

Opening

The message started in a way that caught people's attention and linked with the rest of the message	3	
The message began in a way that caught people's interest	2	
The message lacked an opening that caught people's attention.	0-1	

Structure

The structure was clear and easy to follow. Which helped people engage with the message	3	
The structure was not as clear as it needed to be. Which caused people to be disengaged.	2	
The structure was all over the place. It was hard to follow, and people got lost.	0-1	

Content

It was scripturally based. The content was biblically sound. It had stories that reinforced the biblical truth	3	
It was scripturally based. The content was biblically sound. It needed more stories to reinforce the truth	2	
The content had some questionable theology. It was based on something other than the Bible.	0-1	

Big Idea

The big idea was clear and regularly reinforced. Everyone would be able to say what the message was about	3	
The big idea was clear but not reinforced. Not every listener would be able to say what the message was about.	2	
The big idea was not clear, and there may not have been one. Every listener would have their own opinion about what the message was about.	0-1	

Transformation

The main focus of the message was to live out the message that was presented.	6-7	
The presenter spent some time speaking about how to live out the biblical truth but it wasn't the focus of the message.	3-5	
There was minimal emphasis on transformation and therefore people would have to work out for themselves what to do with what was presented.	0-2	

Presentation

The presenter was passionate about the topic and engaged with the audience. They used good eye contact, stood in an open stance, moved around the platform and kept people's attention. Lots of vocal inflection in pitch and dynamics. The PowerPoint followed the Lifegate Style guide. It used pictures correctly and was easy to read. It added to the presentation.	3	
The presenter engaged with the audience some of the time, but at other times the presenter lost their attention. There was some eye contact, some and movement in an attempt to keep people's attention. There was some vocal inflection in pitch and dynamics. The PowerPoint had some inconsistencies with the style guide. The PowerPoint had obvious problems, and it didn't add to the presentation	2	
The presenter was boring and did not engage the audience. The PowerPoint was poorly prepared. It took away from the presentation.	0-1	

Target group

The message was aimed at Lifegate's target group.	3	
The message had some parts that were aimed at Liftgate's target group	2	
The message was not aimed at Liftgate's target group	0-1	

Next Step

There was a presented next step for people	4-5	
The next step needed to be clearer	2-3	
The next step was not clear or not present.	0-1	

Your total Score

Preaching resource

Summary of the Book “Communicating for Change” written by Andy Stanley and Lane Jones.

Determine your goal.

What is the purpose of your preaching?
 What are you trying to accomplish?
 What is the goal?
 What is the win?

Our approach to preaching needs to be determined by our goal.

Stanley suggests 3 goals for preaching

4. **Teach the Bible to People.** This method is about giving Bible knowledge to people.
5. **Teach people the Bible.** The emphasis here is on taking people into account when preparing. Common is 3 points and application approach.
6. **Teach people how to live a life that reflects the Bible's values, principles, and truths.** In short, **the goal is change.**

This book focuses on the third approach and sets out a method of achieving this.

Stanley writes;

- “I want people to know what to do with what they have heard”.
- Preparation is not complete until you answer, “So what?” and “Now what?”
- At the end of the day, I want people in my congregation to trust God in every arena of their lives; family, finance, career, relationships, everything. That kind of trust is developed when we act on what we know. Acts of obedience allow our faith to intersect with God’s faithfulness. It is at that intersection that we see God work. And when we see Him work our faith gets bigger”.
- What are they going to do on Monday?

Now you have your purpose.

1. Pick a point

What are you trying to say? What is your destination?

What is the one thing you want to say?

And then

What do I want them to do about it?

The one thing may be an application, insight or principle.

If you have two things you want to say, make it a series.

The process of developing a one-point message can be broken down as follows:

1. Dig until you find it

Helpful questions;

- a) What, if anything does the Bible say about this topic?
- b) Who, in the Scriptures, faced a situation that forced them to interface with this topic or idea?
- c) What did they do? What didn’t they do that I might have expected them to do?
- d) Did Jesus ever address this topic directly or indirectly?

2. Build everything around it

Everything we say must fit around this one idea. If it doesn’t fit throw it out. Ask yourself, “Does this really facilitate the journey or is this just something that will get a laugh or fill time?”

3. Make it stick

We need a single statement or phrase that makes it stick.

For: “When you see as God sees, you will do as God does”

“Everybody lives forever somewhere”

“To understand why, submit and apply”

With this, we need a burden, and a passion to share the message.

2. Create a Map

Me, We, God, You, We

Me-

Orientates people to the topic.

Tell a story about yourself, to introduce the topic

Use your struggles. Having made it clear what you are struggling with, include the congregation as well.

Transition statement- "Sometimes I wonder why I even bother praying (**ME**). I bet you've wondered but that as well (**WE**)."

We-

Assures the audience that this is a relevant topic for them

Make the topic relate to them, so they want to listen.

We want people to feel, yeah me too!!!!

"Don't transition from **We** to the next section until you feel like you have created a tension that your audience wants resolved."

Transition statement- "Well the good news is, we are not the first people to struggle with this. The people in Jesus' day did as well. Turn with me to...." (**WE**).

God-

The meat of the Bible text. Don't skim over the text, nor get bogged down in the text either.

Engage the audience with the text. Take them with you, make it part of their journey.

You-

So what? Or now what?

How does this apply to me?

This is about taking the one point and applying it to our lives. Stanley writes he rarely challenges people to make a huge commitment but gives them something to think about, or asks them for one thing they are going to do differently as a result of what they have heard.

How does it apply to me, my family/relationships, a community of the faith, unbelievers, marketplace?

OR how does it apply to college students, singles, newlyweds, parents, and Empty nesters?

We-

This is about creating a vision. Imagine what we could do together. What would it look like if this principle was applied?

"Remind your audience the Scriptures were given not just to make our lives better. They were given so that as a body, we could shine like a beacon of hope in our communities."

3. Internalise the message

We must own the message like we are telling our own story. If we want people to remember it, we must remember it first.

If someone asks us for our message we should be able to say it in one sentence.

We should also know where we are going.

Stanley suggests we don't have notes, but if we do, we should only have the big pieces of the puzzle for structure's sake, (For it is our story after all) and then any key phrases that we must say correctly.

"If I can't remember the main points why should others?"

4. Engage your audience

What's your plan to capture their attention?

If communication is a journey take people with you.

World-class ad agency principle, 'Presentation trumps information when it comes to engaging the audience'

Introduction;- ‘The Introduction should raise questions you are going to answer, create the tension you are going to resolve or point to the mystery you are going to solve’.

Questions to ask yourself in preparing introductions.

1. What is the question I am answering? What can I do to get my audience to want to know the answer to that question?
 2. What is the tension this message will resolve? What can I do to make the audience feel that tension?
 3. What mystery does this message solve? What can I do to make my audience want a solution?
- Don’t read long sections without comment. Comment along the way.
 - Highlight and explain odd phrases.
 - Voice your frustration or scepticism with the text. If it is frustrating to you, it is frustrating your audience. Say something like “That’s just hard to believe isn’t it” or “IF God would allow me to erase a verse, this might be it”
 - Help the audience anticipate the main point of the text. “Okay, get ready, here it is.....’
 - Deliberately read the text wrong, inserting a word that means the opposite and then pausing to let it sink in.
 - Have the audience read certain words out loud for emphasis.
 - Summarise the text with a well-crafted statement.
 - Use visuals for every change you get.
 - Resist the urge to share everything you have learnt.
 - Add something unexpected to the journey. Do something outrageous.

5. Find your voice.

Know who you are, accept who you are not, and Be who you are!!!

This is not an excuse for bad communication, it means to be who you are, using great communication techniques.

Ask yourself;

“What works?” And “what works for me?”

Watch yourself communicate.

6. Start all over.

What do you do when you get stuck? Return to the source. Stop working on your message and go to Jesus for inspiration.

Then ask yourself.

1. What do they need to know? - information.
2. Why do they need to know it? - Motivation
3. What do they need to do? - Application.
4. Why do they need to do it? - Inspiration
5. How can I help them remember? - Reiteration

Freedom resources By Kim Baltowski

FREEDOM SURVEY

This survey is designed to help you reflect deeply on areas of your life where you may feel stuck or lack freedom. Looking at your own life, please rate the following statements (with 5 being a significant struggle for you)

	LOW				HIGH
	1	2	3	4	5
SECTION 1: Ungodly behaviour					
I struggle with addiction/s (alcohol, drugs, smoking)	1	2	3	4	5
I struggle with sexual sin (lust, pornography, impure thoughts)	1	2	3	4	5
I struggle with self-harm (cutting, eating disorders)	1	2	3	4	5
I struggle with escapism (in books, TV, Movies, computer games)	1	2	3	4	5
I struggle to forgive people (or someone)	1	2	3	4	5
I struggle with _____	1	2	3	4	5
SECTION 2: Fear					
Fear of failure	1	2	3	4	5
Fear of rejection	1	2	3	4	5
Fear of death	1	2	3	4	5
Fear of people	1	2	3	4	5
Fear of losing control	1	2	3	4	5
Fear around my health	1	2	3	4	5
Fear of the future/unknown	1	2	3	4	5
Anxiety and/or panic attacks	1	2	3	4	5
Fear of _____	1	2	3	4	5
SECTION 3: Identity					
I struggle with insecurity	1	2	3	4	5
I struggle with feelings of worthlessness	1	2	3	4	5
I struggle with self-doubt	1	2	3	4	5
I struggle with perfectionism	1	2	3	4	5
I struggle with relationships	1	2	3	4	5
I struggle with _____	1	2	3	4	5
SECTION 4: Wrong thinking					
I don't believe I am lovable	1	2	3	4	5
I don't think I am good enough	1	2	3	4	5
I can't change; nothing will ever change for me	1	2	3	4	5

	LOW					HIGH				
I am not fully forgiven for my past	1	2	3	4	5					
God cannot be trusted	1	2	3	4	5					
God wants to punish me	1	2	3	4	5					
I have to please people to be accepted	1	2	3	4	5					
My guilt makes me unworthy	1	2	3	4	5					
How can God love me?	1	2	3	4	5					
I have to protect & provide for myself because God won't	1	2	3	4	5					
I don't belong	1	2	3	4	5					
Other _____	1	2	3	4	5					

SECTION 5: Unhealthy emotions

Depression	1	2	3	4	5					
Loneliness	1	2	3	4	5					
Bitterness/Resentment/Animosity	1	2	3	4	5					
Hopelessness/despair	1	2	3	4	5					
Condemnation	1	2	3	4	5					
Rejection	1	2	3	4	5					
Anger	1	2	3	4	5					
Shame	1	2	3	4	5					
Regret	1	2	3	4	5					
Worry	1	2	3	4	5					
I shut down my emotions rather than process them	1	2	3	4	5					

SECTION 6: Other

I struggle with illness and questions of why I am not healed	1	2	3	4	5					
I keep believing the lies of the enemy	1	2	3	4	5					

The lies I believe: _____

Questions:

What steps have you taken to find freedom in the areas you have identified above?

What would help you experience greater freedom in your life?

What "action" will you take now that you have been "real" about the areas in your life that lack freedom?

Helping people get Free resource

By Kim Baltowski

10 Things that will help you as you prepare your messages this year to help people find the freedom Jesus has for them.

1) Get real, take action

We need to get real about the areas where we lack freedom and deliberately pursue all the freedom Jesus has for us.

2) Jesus knocks / the enemy is a bully, he will barge in

We need to choose to allow Jesus to help us and be aware of the areas we need to protect against the enemy.

3) Truth sets us free – how to replace lies with truth

We need to not only believe the truth, but also apply it to our lives.

4) Deal with the root, not the fruit

It is not enough to deal with the addiction, depression, fear, etc.; we need to deal with the reasons for the addiction, depression, fear, etc.

5) Remove the legal rights of the enemy

When we hang on to sin or choose not to forgive others, we give the enemy room in our lives.

6) Bringing issues into the light, they lose their power

When we keep things hidden, we cannot deal with them. This, in turn, gives the enemy room in our lives. Bringing things into the light is connected to removing the enemy's legal rights.

7) Confession/declare out load

The enemy cannot read our thoughts. Speaking out loud is how we bring things into the light, and it is connected to accountability.

8) Accountability

Ask someone to journey with you. The encouragement and challenge from someone walking with you can make all the difference. We do not need to go through our struggles alone.

9) Johari window – the things that are hidden from us

There are things we know about ourselves and some we don't. There are things others see in us that we cannot see ourselves. Having someone in our lives to help us see what we cannot is invaluable to finding freedom.

10) Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the things we don't know or can't see

The Holy Spirit knows all things. He is our helper and will show us what we need to know so we can pursue the freedom Jesus has for us.

Other:

THE SIX ENTRY POINTS

Wilful Disobedience

James 4:17 – “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.” (NKJV)
This is knowingly and deliberately choosing to do something you know is wrong.

Unforgiveness

Matthew 6:14-15 – “For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” (NIV)
This is forgiving others for the wrongs they have done to us **and** forgiving ourselves for the negative ways we treat ourselves.

Judgements

Luke 6:37 – “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.” (NIV)
Judgements are the negative words or labels you have spoken and made over others, yourself and God. As well as those that have been spoken over you by others.

Generational Influence

Exodus 20:5 – “You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me...” (NIV)
Nehemiah 9:2 - “Those of Israelite descent had separated themselves from all foreigners. They stood in their places and confessed their sins and the sins of their ancestors.” (NIV)
This deals with the sins of our ancestors (direct lines of descent only), which can be passed down to us (Freemansons, New Age, etc....)

Spiritual and Emotional Trauma

Trauma can be emotional, spiritual or psychological and can cause lasting damage to us if left undealt with. There are two kinds of trauma, that which we had a part to play in and that which we had no part in.
Isaiah 53:5b – “...the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.” (NIV)

Misplaced Trust

This is placing our trust in anything or anyone other than God. While we should be in community and ask for help from people we trust, when we rely on others or things more than we rely on God or even exclude Him, it becomes misplaced trust.
1 Timothy 6:10 describes a typical example, the love of money.