SERMON PREPARATION WORKSHEET

Date: Name: Text:

This worksheet is a tool for helping a man prepare a faithful biblical exposition, holding out a variety of questions for focused reflection in the course of his preparation. In preparation for a cohort workshop session, prepare concise answers to each question, of one to three sentences each. In our cohort workshop session we will only focus on the first part, “Getting the Text Right.” Please prepare a one-page document, front and back, for “Getting the Text Right” and make ten copies for our meeting. You’ll have five minutes to share your work with the men.

PART 1: QUESTIONS FOR GETTING THE TEXT RIGHT

1. Structure: How has the author organized his material?
2. Emphasis: What point of emphasis does the structure hold out?
3. Illuminating Context: What particular historical, literary, and whole-Bible context helps illuminate our understanding of the passage?
4. Melodic Line: What is this text’s contribution to the overall message of the book?
5. The Gospel: The gospel has a center in the life/death/resurrection/ascension of Jesus Christ, and an array of benefits. How does does this passage anticipate, announce, or apply the gospel?
6. Tone: What is the tone or feel of the passage?
7. Questions: What questions need answering for us to truly understand this passage?
8. Doctrines: What doctrines emerge in this passage and what purpose are they serving?
9. Aim of the Passage: What is the author seeking to accomplish though this passage for his readers? This can also be called the Exegetical Idea.

PART 2: QUESTIONS FOR GETTING THE TEXT ACROSS

1. Aim for our People (Homiletical Idea): What am I seeking to accomplish through this sermon for my hearers?
2. Key Word: What key word will I use to bring a sense of unity and coherence to my outline?
3. Draft Homiletical Outlines: How will I structure my sermon for free delivery in preaching and easy reception in hearing? One to three options.
4. Hearers: Who are the unique types of hearers that this sermon could address in personal terms?
5. Gospel to Christians: How might I preach the gospel from this passage for Christian remembrance and faithfulness? For our church’s remembrance and faithfulness?
6. Gospel to Unbelievers: How might I press home our need for the gospel on my unbelieving hearer?
7. Primary Applications: What are the ways that this passage must be brought to bear on my hearers?
8. Secondary Applications: What are some additional ways this passage could be applied along the way?
9. Useful and Unique Vocabulary: We want to preach with the language and categories of the text. What words or turns of phrase are present in this passage that I can use to add texture to my preaching?
10. Introduction Ideas: How might I gather the attention of my hearers to receive this passage?
11. Amplifying Material: What personal stories, illustrations, or related concepts come to mind as help for amplifying the meaning of the passage?
12. Personal “I” Opportunities: How might I speak in personal and, if natural, vulnerable/human terms to my people from my life in a way that helps them receive the passage?
13. Personal “Us” Opportunities: How might I speak to the congregation about our congregational life?
14. Songs or Scripture Readings: What songs or readings come to mind for use in the sermon or service?