



CHURCH OF
THE NAZARENE
THE PREACHING COLLABORATIVE



PARTICIPANT NOTEBOOK

EVANGELISTIC PREACHING ESSENTIALS





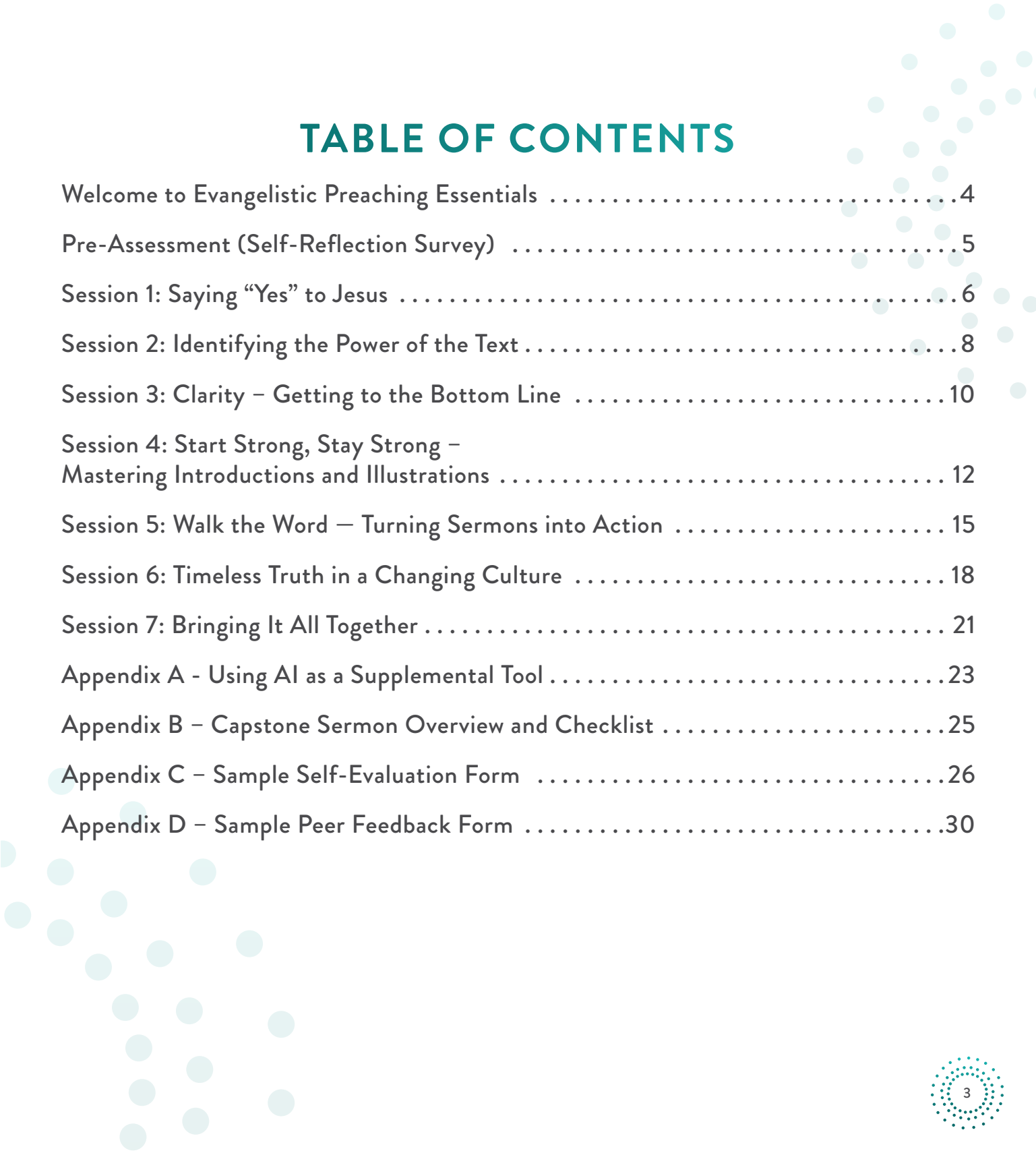


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WELCOME TO EVANGELISTIC PREACHING ESSENTIALS

You are beginning a journey designed to help you grow in confidence, clarity, and effectiveness as you proclaim the good news of Jesus. This notebook accompanies the seven cohort sessions and provides a simple place to capture insights, reflect on scripture, and help you develop your capstone sermon step by step.

Evangelistic preaching is more than delivering a message. It is joining the Holy Spirit and helping people say their next “yes” to Jesus. Throughout this process, you will explore how to identify the power of the biblical text, communicate with clarity, engage listeners, and invite them into faithful action in our changing world.

Cohort Design and Outcomes

The Evangelistic Preaching Essentials system builds sequentially over seven sessions. Each session helps you understand and apply one key aspect of evangelistic preaching. Cumulatively, these steps prepare you to develop and deliver a capstone sermon that integrates the principles learned throughout the series.

During the cohort process, you will:

- Reflect deeply on the call to proclaim Jesus.
- Identify specific areas for growth.
- Apply evangelistic preaching principles in your own ministry.
- Build community and accountability as you practice giving and receiving feedback.

Each session includes:

- A brief overview and recap
- Video teaching
- Space for key ideas and personal reflection
- A scripture connection
- One practical next step to help you build a capstone sermon

You will complete your capstone sermon over time, adding one piece in each session. By the end, you will have developed major components of a message shaped by prayer, scripture, and the Essentials tools. Have access to this notebook for each session.

A Note About Spiritual Posture

As Wesleyan-Holiness people, we believe God continues to form us in Christlikeness as we surrender to the Spirit's work. Preaching flows from that ongoing grace. These pages are not just for ideas, but are for listening, learning, and responding to God's activity in your life and in your ministry.

A Note About AI Tools

You may notice an optional appendix with suggested AI prompts. This section serves as a starting point for those curious about the ethical use of AI in sermon preparation. AI should never replace prayer, study of scripture, theological reflection, or trusted commentaries. AI can help with words, but only the Holy Spirit brings the Word to life.

As you work through this notebook, we pray you will grow not only as a preacher, but also as a follower of Jesus as you are shaped by the word, empowered by the Spirit, and sent to invite others into becoming Christlike disciples.

Before Your First Cohort Meeting

1. Be sure to save this downloaded notebook somewhere you can easily locate it.
2. Take the pre-assessment survey to help you orient to Essentials.

PRE-ASSESSMENT (SELF-REFLECTION SURVEY)

This brief survey helps you reflect on where you are as you begin the Essentials journey. It is not a test—just an opportunity to notice your starting point.

Scale:

1 = Rarely true of me

2 = Occasionally true

3 = Sometimes true

4 = Often true

5 = Generally true

1. Choosing and Working with a Biblical Text

I feel comfortable selecting a passage and beginning sermon preparation from Scripture. _____

2. Identifying the “Power of the Text”

I can usually recognize the main idea, movement, or emphasis of a passage I plan to preach. _____

3. Clarity of Message

I am often able to communicate one clear, memorable point in my preaching. _____

4. Introductions & Illustrations

I can generally start sermons in a way that engages listeners and use illustrations that help them understand the message. _____

5. Connecting to Everyday Life

I am typically able to connect biblical truth to the real-life context and experiences of my listeners while balancing grace and truth. _____

6. Inviting a Response (Call to Action)

I am comfortable offering a specific next step that helps listeners respond to God’s Word. _____

7. Confidence in My Preaching

Overall, I feel reasonably confident in my ability to preach or communicate God’s Word. _____

8. Openness to Growth

I am open to learning, practicing, and receiving feedback to strengthen my preaching. _____



SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION – SAYING “YES” TO JESUS

1. Session Overview

This session introduces the vision for *Evangelistic Preaching Essentials*: preaching that helps people say their next “yes” to Jesus. You’ll hear Pastor Julie O’Hara’s call story and begin identifying where God may be inviting you to grow as a preacher.

2. Video Orientation Cues & Notes

Video Title: Inviting the Next “Yes” - An Introduction to Evangelistic Preaching Essentials

Presenter: Pastor Julie O’Hara

As you watch, pay attention to:

- What stands out or resonates with you personally.
- How evangelistic preaching is described.
- Any questions or insights you want to explore.

Video Notes:

3. Key Ideas

Discussion Notes:



4. Reflection and Application:

- What might it look like for you to make your own preaching or teaching moments more invitational – helping people to take a next “yes”?

Discussion Notes:

5. Scripture Connection: Romans 15:14–16

- How does this passage inform your experience of being in a cohort?
- How does this support preaching that leads to transformation, not just information?

Personal Reflection:

6. Looking Ahead: The Sermon You’ll Develop

Throughout this cohort, you will develop a short evangelistic sermon. Each session contributes to that process—choosing a text, identifying the power of the Word, sharpening clarity, developing illustrations, and crafting a call to action.

This week, you will begin by prayerfully selecting a text.

7. Next Step Assignment

Prayerfully identify 2–3 possible Scripture passages you might use for your capstone sermon.

Bring your best option to **Session Two**.

Passage Options:

SESSION 2: IDENTIFYING THE POWER OF THE TEXT

1. Session Overview

In this session, you will discover that the true power in preaching comes from the living and active Word of God and not personality, creativity, or skill. Pastor Dave Anderson teaches five steps for identifying the power within your chosen passage. This session helps you begin working with your text in a deeper, more prayerful way.

2. Video Orientation Cues & Notes

Video Title: Identifying the Power of the Text

Presenter: Pastor Dave Anderson

As you watch, pay attention to:

- What does “the power of the text” mean for your chosen passage?
- Which of the five steps stands out as most helpful to you?
- Any insights or questions that arise as you listen.

Video Notes:

3. Key Ideas

Five steps for identifying the power of the text:

1. Sit under the text before standing over it
2. Identify the central claim
3. Trace the movement or tension
4. Connect to the larger story of Scripture
5. Clarify implications for today

Discussion Notes:

4. Reflection and Application

- What might it look like for you to “sit under the text” this week before you begin writing?
- How might your listeners experience the difference when a sermon flows from the text’s power rather than the preacher’s ideas?

Discussion Notes:

5. Scripture Connection — Hebrews 4:12

- What does this passage reveal about the power of Scripture in preaching?
- How does this challenge you to trust the text more deeply than your own strength or creativity?

Personal Reflection:

6. Looking Ahead: Developing Your Sermon

Your sermon will continue to take shape session by session. This week, your focus is to begin identifying the power within the passage you have selected. The insights yielded will guide every other decision you make in the sermon writing process.

7. Next Step Assignment

Begin working with your chosen sermon passage using Pastor Dave’s five-step process.

As you study, capture insights that show where the “power of the text” emerges.

After “**sitting under**” the text, prepare a response to these questions.

- What is the central claim of this text? _____
- Where is there movement or tension in this passage? _____
- How does this text connect to the larger story of Scripture? _____
- Based on the above, what are the implications for today? _____

You will share highlights in **Session Three**.

SESSION 3: CLARITY – GETTING TO THE BOTTOM LINE

1. Session Overview

In this session, you will explore how clarity helps a sermon convey a single, unforgettable truth that draws people to Jesus. Pastor James Heyward emphasizes that evangelistic preaching must “say what matters and make it stick.” This session will help you sharpen focus, reinforce what’s essential, and craft a conclusion that invites response.

2. Video Orientation Cues & Notes

Video Title: Clarity — Getting to the Bottom Line

Presenter: Pastor James Heyward

As you watch, pay attention to:

- Practical moves or ideas that stand out.
- How clarity strengthens the focus and impact of a sermon.
- What helps a message land with purpose and invitation.

Video Notes:

3. Key Ideas

Four movements in clear, evangelistic preaching:

1. Grabbing & Guiding Attention — engaging listeners from the start.
2. Sharpening Focus — naming one clear, central truth.
3. Amplifying What Matters — reinforcing the main point in meaningful ways.
4. Landing with Impact — closing with hope and a clear invitation.

Discussion Notes:

4. Reflection and Application

- What is the bottom line of your passage? Can you express it in one short, memorable sentence?
- How might you repeat or reframe this central truth throughout your sermon so it stays with listeners?
- What could it look like for you to “land with impact,” inviting people to respond to Jesus?

Discussion Notes:

5. Scripture Connection — Habakkuk 2:2 & Colossians 4:3–4

- What do these passages reveal about the importance of clear communication in God’s work?
- How does clarity honor both the message and the listener?
- How can these verses give you confidence to proclaim a simple, memorable, Christ-centered truth?

Personal Reflection:

6. Looking Ahead: Developing Your Sermon

Your sermon now begins to take a more defined shape. Identifying your bottom line will guide your introduction, illustrations, transitions, and call to action. Clear focus is one of the greatest gifts you can give your listeners.

7. Next Step Assignment

Write a one-sentence bottom line for your sermon—the one clear truth you want people to remember and respond to.

Also identify:

- How you will reinforce this bottom line throughout the sermon.
- How your conclusion will help you “land with impact”.

Bring your refined bottom line to **Session Four**.

Bottom Line:

SESSION 4: START STRONG, STAY STRONG – MASTERING INTRODUCTIONS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

1. Session Overview

In this session, Dr. David Graves teaches that introductions and illustrations are not about cleverness or performance—they help listeners *see* and *feel* the truth of the gospel. Strong beginnings capture attention, set direction, and open the heart. Meaningful illustrations sustain engagement and help people connect Scripture to everyday life. This session will help you develop both with intentionality and authenticity.

2. Video Orientation Cues & Notes

Video Title: Starting Strong, Stay Strong — Mastering Introductions and Illustrations

Presenter: Dr. David Graves

As you watch, pay attention to:

- What makes an introduction strong and compelling.
- How Dr. Graves uses imagery, tone, or story to sustain attention.
- What kinds of illustrations help listeners visualize biblical truth.

Video Notes:

3. Key Ideas

Principles for strong introductions and illustrations:

1. Begin with purpose: a question, story, bold statement, or Scripture can frame the sermon.
2. Engage authentically: connection matters more than polish.
3. Use illustrations wisely: they should clarify, not distract.
4. Help people visualize truth: examples, images, and metaphors connect heart and mind.
5. Re-engage throughout: simple moments of participation help listeners stay with you.

Discussion Notes:

4. Reflection and Application

- How could you build one simple participatory moment into your sermon (a question, response, or reflective pause)?
- What is the difference between a sermon with a strong opening and one without?
- What type of illustration (story, image, object, metaphor) feels most natural to your preaching voice?

Discussion Notes:

5. Scripture Connection — Psalm 1:3, John 15:5, Ephesians 6:13–17

- How do these passages use imagery or vivid language to help listeners see spiritual truth?
- What can Jesus' use of everyday language and objects teach us about connecting with people today?

Personal Reflection:

6. Looking Ahead: Developing Your Sermon

You now have:

- A chosen text
- A sense of its power
- A clear bottom line

This week, you will begin shaping how your sermon starts and how it stays engaging. A strong introduction and a meaningful illustration will help prepare the hearts of your listeners to receive the truth God is calling you to proclaim.

7. Next Step Assignment

Draft or refine the following for your sermon:

Also identify:

- A **strong introduction** that authentically engages your listeners and points toward your bottom line
- One **meaningful illustration** (story, object, image, or metaphor) that helps people see and feel your central truth

Bring both pieces to **Session Five** for feedback and continued refinement.

Intro and Illustration:

SESSION 5: WALK THE WORD — TURNING SERMONS INTO ACTION

1. Session Overview

In this session, Pastor Selena Freeman reminds us that preaching is not primarily about information but about transformation. Evangelistic preaching helps people *hear* the biblical truth (head), *believe* it (heart), and *live* it (hands). This session will help you shape sermons that invite your listeners into faithful action, not just deeper understanding.

2. Video Orientation Cues & Notes

Video Title: Walk the Word — Turning Sermons into Action

Presenter: Pastor Selena Freeman

As you watch, pay attention to:

- How sermons move from proclamation to practice.
- How a preacher can connect the head, heart, and hands.
- The ways a sermon can invite people into concrete, Spirit-led action.

Video Notes:

3. Key Ideas

Principles for strong introductions and illustrations:

- 1. Head — What do I want people to know?**
 - One clear truth; reinforce without redundancy
- 2. Heart — Why does this matter?**
 - Stories, vulnerability, personal connection
- 3. Hands — How can people live this truth?**
 - A specific, meaningful, time-bound next step

Discussion Notes:

4. Reflection and Application

- Think of a recent sermon you heard or preached. Was there a clear ask? If not, how could it have been strengthened?
- What could it look like for your congregation to “walk the Word” together rather than alone?
- What kinds of practical responses (prayer, steps, practices, conversations, commitments) fit your preaching context?

Discussion Notes:

5. Scripture Connection — James 1:22

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

- What does it mean for you personally to “walk the Word”?
- Where have you seen preaching move people from hearing to action?
- How does the Holy Spirit bridge the gap between knowing, feeling, and doing?

Personal Reflection:

6. Looking Ahead: Developing Your Sermon

You now have a clear bottom line, an introduction, and an illustration. As your sermon continues to take shape, the call to action will become the moment where all of this comes together—helping people respond to God’s Word with faith and obedience.

7. Next Step Assignment

Draft the call to action for your sermon.

Your “ask” should be:

- Clear
- Specific
- Time-bound
- Connected to your bottom line

Bring your call to action to **Session Six** for continued refinement and feedback.

Call to Action:

SESSION 6: TIMELESS TRUTH IN A CHANGING CULTURE

1. Session Overview

In this session, Pastor Kevin Donoho invites us to preach with both confidence and compassion in a rapidly changing world. While culture shifts, the gospel remains unchanging. Faithful evangelistic preaching holds grace and truth together, speaks with authenticity, and equips people to share and live the gospel in their everyday environments.

2. Video Orientation Cues & Notes

Video Title: Timeless Truth in a Changing Culture

Presenter: Pastor Kevin Donoho

As you watch, pay attention to:

- What it means to preach an unchanging gospel in a changing culture.
- How conviction and compassion work together in preaching.
- Practical ways to help people live out the message beyond the worship center.

Video Notes:

3. Key Ideas

Themes from Pastor Kevin's teaching:

1. Preach Jesus with Confidence

- Stay centered on Christ amid cultural pressure

2. Hold Love and Truth in Tension

- Grace without truth is hollow; truth without grace is harsh

3. Live What You Preach

- Authenticity deepens credibility

4. Contextualize the Gospel

- Connect biblical truth to real-world experience without compromising the message



5. Preach the Why, Not Just the What

- Help people grasp why God's truth matters today

6. Spread the Good News Beyond the Worship Center

- Connect the congregation to the culture

7. Lead with Hope

- Preach with your glass half-full

Discussion Notes:



4. Reflection and Application

- What might it look like to “anchor both sides” of the rope, holding conviction and compassion together?
- How could your sermon make the “why” more compelling, especially for those new to faith?
- What would it look like for you to preach with confident hope in Christ?

Discussion Notes:

5. Scripture Connection — Hebrews 13:8

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

- How does this truth ground your confidence as a preacher?
- What does it mean to bear witness to an unchanging Christ in a shifting world?

Personal Reflection:

6. Looking Ahead: Developing Your Sermon

You now have several major components of your sermon:

- A chosen text
- Insight into the power of the passage
- A clear bottom line
- An introduction and illustration
- A call to action
- A posture of conviction, compassion, and hope

It is time to finish writing your capstone sermon and record it. Before the next session, you will also review and prepare feedback for your cohort. In Session Seven, you will practice giving and receiving feedback.

7. Next Step Assignment

Complete these steps before Session Seven:

1. Review your sermon, ensuring it holds truth and love in healthy tension.
2. Check that your tone and examples communicate both conviction and compassion.
3. Pray for courage to preach with hope.
4. **Record your capstone sermon.**
5. Upload your sermon or share the link according to the instructions provided by your facilitator.
6. Watch your recording and prepare your **Self-Evaluation Form**.
7. Watch the sermons assigned to you and prepare your **Peer Feedback Forms**.
8. Your facilitator will provide additional details.

SESSION 7 – BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

1. Session Overview

This final session focuses on offering and receiving thoughtful sermon feedback in a supportive, Spirit-led environment. The goal is not critique but growth—celebrating progress, identifying next steps, and strengthening the shared mission of preaching that invites people to say their next “yes” to Jesus. You will practice self-reflection and will receive guided peer feedback and a final affirmation from your facilitator.

2. Session Orientation Cues

As you enter this final session, reflect on:

- What you learned by recording and watching your own sermon.
- Insights you gained from watching your peers’ sermons.
- Growth you’ve experienced throughout the *Essentials* journey.

3. Key Ideas

Elements of effective feedback in the *Essentials* model:

1. Self-Assessment

- Offering one strength and one growth opportunity connected to *Essentials* tools.

2. Peer Feedback

- Grace without truth is hollow; truth without grace is harsh

3. Open Affirmations

- Brief, specific encouragements.

4. Facilitator Feedback

- Ending with one clear next step and one hopeful affirmation.

4. Reflection and Application

- What did you learn about yourself as you preached, recorded, and watched your sermon?
- Which *Essentials* tools most shaped your sermon development?
- How has giving and receiving feedback helped you grow as a preacher and follower of Jesus?

Personal Reflection:

5. Scripture Connection — 1 Thessalonians 5:24

“The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.”

- How does this promise speak into your preaching future?
- Where do you sense God inviting your next “yes” as a preacher?

Personal Reflection:

6. Looking Ahead: Your Preaching Journey

This cohort marks the beginning of your growth, not the end. As you continue preaching, remember the *Essentials* themes that shaped your capstone sermon—trusting the power of the text, pursuing clarity, engaging listeners, inviting action, preaching with conviction and compassion, and practicing feedback in community.

You are not alone. God is faithful, and he has gifted you with a unique preaching voice.

7. Next Step Assignment

As you conclude *Evangelistic Preaching Essentials*:

1. Take 5 minutes to complete this **Exit Survey**.
2. Re-watch your capstone sermon in a few months.
3. Consider preaching it again if appropriate.
4. Continue practicing the *Essentials* tools as part of your regular sermon preparation.
5. Keep seeking feedback in trusted Christian community.
6. Keep asking, “How can my preaching help people say their next ‘yes’ to Jesus?”

APPENDIX A – USING AI AS A SUPPLEMENTAL TOOL

Ethical Note on Using AI in Sermon Preparation

AI can be a helpful supplemental tool, but it must never replace the essential practices of **prayerful study, spiritual discernment, theological reflection, and engagement with Scripture itself**. As Wesleyan-Holiness people, we affirm that the Holy Spirit forms the preacher, guides interpretation, and empowers proclamation. No technology can take the place of the Spirit's work in the preacher's life.

AI tools can make mistakes, oversimplify theology, or generate inaccurate or incomplete interpretations.

For this reason, always check AI-assisted ideas against trusted sources:

- Scripture
- Commentaries
- The wider Christian tradition
- Your denominational commitments
- Wise pastoral mentors and teachers

Not every pastor or participant will feel comfortable using AI in sermon preparation, and that's okay. The goal of this cohort is **clarity, faithfulness, and Spirit-led preaching**—not technology.

For those who wish to experiment, AI can be a helpful **supplemental** tool—especially for refining your sermon's bottom line or testing phrasing. AI should **never** replace prayer, study, or spiritual discernment, but it can serve as a creative conversation partner.

Use AI to help:

- Simplify language
- Test clarity
- Strengthen focus
- Ensure your bottom line is memorable
- Consider how different audiences might hear your wording

If you would like to try it, here are some sample prompts:

Sample Prompts for Refining Your Bottom Line

- *"Here is my sermon passage and my draft bottom line. Help me express this statement more clearly and memorably while keeping it faithful to the text and centered on Jesus."*
- *"I want my sermon's bottom line to connect emotionally and spiritually with people who are exploring faith. Suggest 2–3 alternative phrasings that feel invitational, not just informational."*
- *"Critique this draft bottom line and suggest how it might better connect with my intended audience."*
(Be sure to describe who you are preaching to.)

Sample Prompts for Creating Introductions & Illustrations

- *“Help me brainstorm three possible sermon introductions (story, question, bold statement) that connect to this bottom line. Keep them natural, not theatrical.”* (Be sure to tell the AI your bottom line.)
- *“Suggest a simple illustration that helps people visualize this biblical truth. Prioritize everyday objects or situations.”*
- *“Here is my current introduction. How can it be improved to feel more conversational and less scripted?”*
- You might have an idea for an illustration, but need details. AI can be your research partner. For example, for a sermon about forgiveness: *“Please find three to five resources on the web that tell the story of the mom who forgave the Sandy Hook shooter.”*

Sample Prompts for Turning Sermons into Action

- *“Here is my sermon’s main point. Suggest two or three possible next steps that are specific, time-bound, and are connected to this truth.”* (AI can make suggestions from your draft or your outline.)
- *“Help me write a call to action that feels hopeful rather than heavy or guilt-driven.”*
- *“Can this call to action be simplified, clarified, and more connected to Jesus’ transforming work?”*

Sample Prompts to Deliver Timeless Truth in a Changing Culture

- *“Help me express this truth with conviction and compassion, avoiding combative or polarizing language.”*
- *“Here is my sermon point. Suggest ways to explain why this matters today for someone exploring faith.”*
- *“Rewrite this section so it remains faithful to Scripture while using examples people in today’s culture can relate to.”*
- *“Offer a version of this point that leads with hope rather than fear or critique.”*

AI can help you find words, but it cannot provide wisdom. It can offer phrasing, but not truth. It can assist with clarity, but not with calling.

Use AI as a conversation partner, not an authority. Let it support—never replace—your own study, prayer, and reliance on the Holy Spirit.

AI may assist with wording, but only the Spirit can form a holy life and a holy sermon.

APPENDIX B – CAPSTONE SERMON OVERVIEW AND CHECKLIST

Overview

- Session 1 – Choose text
- Session 2 – Identify power
- Session 3 – Bottom line
- Session 4 – Intro + illustration
- Session 5 – Call to action
- Session 6 – Tone + posture + recording
- Session 7 – Feedback + growth

Checklist

This checklist may help you break your sermon preparation into small pieces. It emphasizes areas particularly influential in moving a sermon from informational to transformational. You still need to study and exegete the text.

Text & Interpretation

- I have selected my sermon passage.
- I have identified the central claim of the text.
- I can articulate any movement or tension within the passage.
- I understand how this text fits within the larger story of Scripture.
- I have clarified the implications of this text for today.

Sermon Focus & Structure

- I have written a clear, memorable bottom line.
- My introduction meaningfully engages listeners and points toward the bottom line.
- I have chosen one illustration that clarifies and reinforces the sermon's main truth.
- My call to action is specific, meaningful, and time-bound.

Tone & Delivery

- My sermon reflects both conviction and compassion.
- I have considered how the message connects to my cultural context.
- My language is invitational and centered on Jesus.
- I have practiced or rehearsed the message at least once.

Recording & Feedback to Prepare for Session Seven

- I have recorded my capstone sermon.
- I have completed my Self-Evaluation Form.
- I have watched my assigned peer sermons.
- I have completed my Peer Feedback Forms.

APPENDIX C – PREVIEW COPY

SELF-EVALUATION FORM

For reference only.
Use link on [page 20](#) to complete.

Feedback is power! It is the “secret sauce” that will quickly propel you to becoming a more effective evangelistic preacher. You have learned some of the essential elements of evangelistic preaching. How will you know if you are hitting those targets? It is by practice and feedback. Feedback’s power lies in its ability to reveal gaps between your current ability and desired outcomes. By identifying specific, actionable points, you can realistically expect to improve rather than simply trying harder.

Sermon Title & Passage: _____

This self-evaluation helps you reflect on your capstone sermon before receiving feedback from others. Watch your recorded sermon as you respond thoughtfully, specifically, and graciously toward yourself.

1. INTRODUCTION: GAINING & HOLDING ATTENTION

- What felt strong or engaging about your introduction?

- What might make your introduction even more effective next time?

2. SCRIPTURE EMPOWERED

- What felt faithful, clear, or surprising as you prepared to preach from this passage?

- Watching back, how well did you stay focused on the central claims you discovered during your study?

3. ILLUSTRATIONS: ENGAGING & SUSTAINING ATTENTION

- What felt strong or effective about your illustration(s)?



- How might the illustration(s) be improved, simplified, or more closely tied to the bottom line?



4. CLARITY & FOCUS

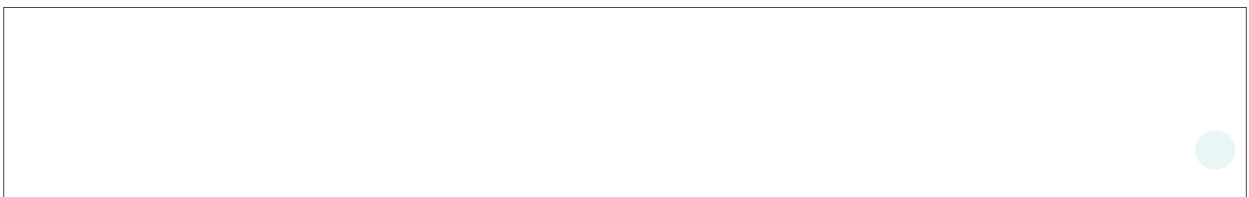
- What was your sermon's main point (bottom line)?



- How clearly do you feel this bottom line appeared throughout the sermon?



- Where could your message have been even more focused, simple, or memorable?



- What, if anything, did not connect to the main idea and should be edited out?



5. TIMELESS TRUTH IN A CHANGING CULTURE

- Listening back, how well did your tone balance grace and truth?



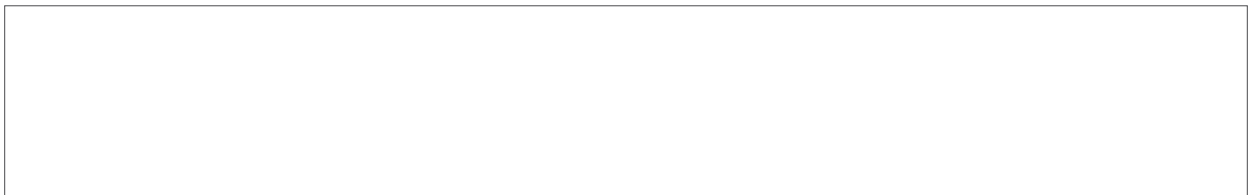
- Are you as authentic and relatable on the outside as you feel on the inside?



- Will unbelievers, new believers, and long-time disciples understand why this sermon is important?



- Make a note or two about how well this sermon pointed to Jesus. Are there ways in which he could be more central?



6. ACTIVE APPLICATION / CALL TO ACTION

- Watching back, does your call to action seem like part of the sermon or a brief add-on?
Was there time to respond?

- How could your “ask” be even clearer, more specific, or more invitational next time?

7. GROWTH GOAL

- After watching this sermon, what is one thing you will focus on the next time you write a sermon/preach?

8. CELEBRATE

- What surprised or delighted you about yourself, or your sermon, while you watched it back?

APPENDIX D – PREVIEW COPY

PEER FEEDBACK FORM

For reference only.
Use link on [page 20](#) to complete.

Feedback is power! It is the “secret sauce” that propels communicators to become more effective evangelistic preachers. The power of feedback lies in its ability to reveal the gap between one’s current state and the preferred future state. By identifying specific, actionable points, learners can realistically expect to improve rather than simply trying harder.

Preacher’s Name: _____

Instructions: This form will help you organize your thoughts for Session Seven when you share feedback with the group. After Session Seven, you will email these notes to the preachers you listen to. Let your comments be kind, authentic, and constructive. Remember your collegial relationship as peers who are learning together.

1. INTRODUCTION: GAINING & HOLDING ATTENTION

- How did the preacher gain and hold attention at the beginning of the sermon?

- What stood out as strong or effective?

- How could the introduction have been even more engaging?

2. SCRIPTURE EMPOWERED

- How did the preacher express the power of the chosen text?

- As you listened, what was new or surprising to you?

- What, if anything, distracted from the text?

3. ILLUSTRATIONS: ENGAGING & SUSTAINING ATTENTION

- How did the preacher use illustration(s) to clarify the message?

- What was effective about the illustration(s)?

4. CLARITY & FOCUS

- What was the sermon's main point (bottom line)?

- How easy was it to recall the main point or notice it during the sermon without rewinding?

5. TIMELESS TRUTH IN A CHANGING CULTURE

- What stood out in the preacher's connection of the message to the real lives, culture, or context of the audience?

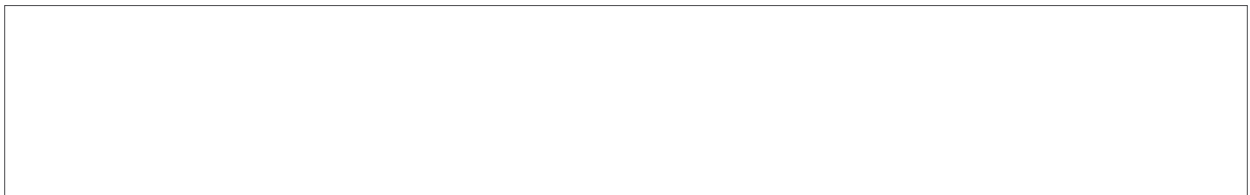


- What, if anything, did you notice that might be confusing to a guest or non-Christian?

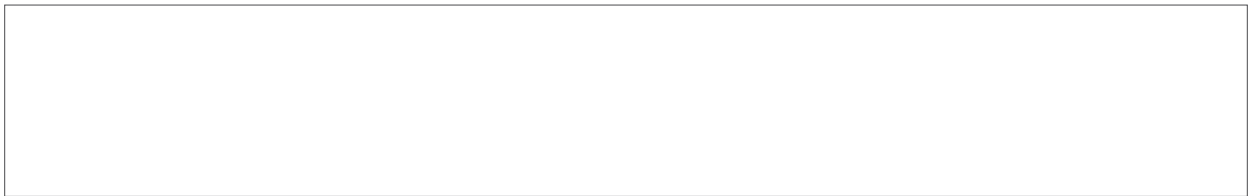


6. ACTIVE APPLICATION / CALL TO ACTION

- How did the preacher invite listeners to take a clear next step or apply the message, and was adequate time given to the “ask”?



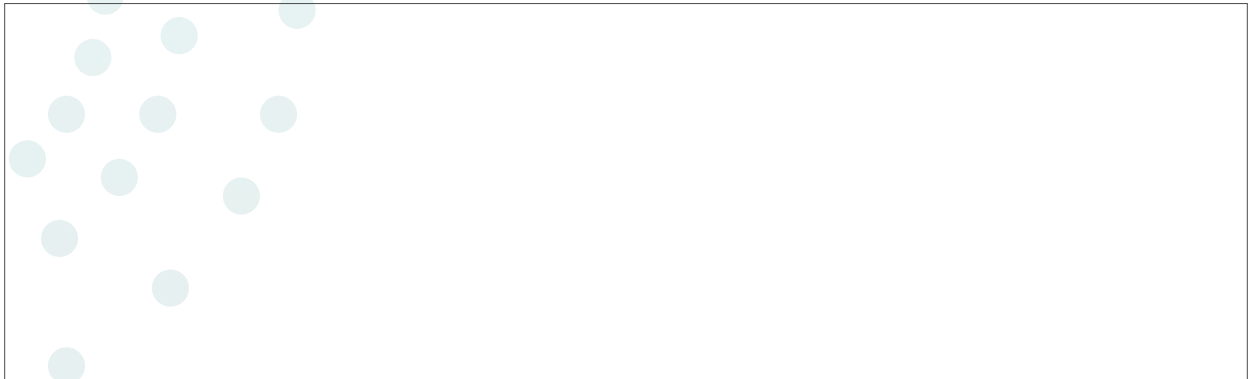
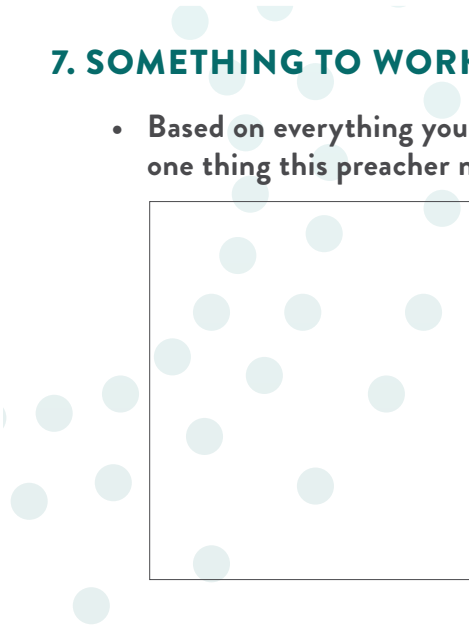
- As the listener, how did you want to respond?





7. SOMETHING TO WORK ON

- Based on everything you have learned about the essentials of evangelistic preaching, what is one thing this preacher might focus on for next time?



8. FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

- Share something that delighted you, particular strengths not already mentioned, or that highlight this preacher's unique "voice."

