

Lectionary Sermon Preparation Checklist

This guide can be used to help standardize your sermon preparation week to week. While this was developed with utilizing the lectionary in mind, it can be used for any text.

REMEMBER - at every stage of the process, pray!

Weekly Schedule (Monday–Sunday)

Monday – Immersion

- Read all four lectionary texts aloud (OT, Psalm, Epistle, Gospel)
- Pray through the texts—invite the Holy Spirit to speak (Lectio Divina)
- Note initial impressions, themes, or repeated ideas
- Identify what the text says about **God**, **you** and **your neighbor** through the **lens of the Gospel**.

Tuesday – Study

- Research historical/cultural background
- Read at least two scholarly commentaries
- Look for intertextual links (especially how the texts relate to each other)
- Identify the main theological theme
- Write a one-sentence “exegetical big idea” for each passage

Wednesday – Discernment & Focus

- Choose the primary preaching text (typically the Gospel, but not always)
- Narrow down to one clear “Big Idea” for the sermon

- Begin outlining sermon flow (Introduction, Main Points, Application)

Thursday – Writing & Structure

- Draft & revise a full sermon outline or manuscript (whichever is your method)
- Develop illustrations, stories, or metaphors
- Clarify transitions and structure (Does it flow? Is it clear?)
- Make the application pastoral, prophetic, and practical

Friday – Review & Internalize

- Read the sermon aloud
- Time it
- Edit for clarity, length, tone, and faithfulness to the text

Saturday – Rest & Release

- Final review
- Spend time in rest and prayer

Sunday – Preach & Reflect

- Make brief notes: what worked, what could be improved
- Receive feedback from others & note do again and do differently.

