
The Sermon Sketch Book – 2010 Edition Introduction

I. Year-at-a-Glance and Seasonal Worship Planners

This section includes a one-page table for recording basic sermon titles and dates for the 52 Sundays of the year plus Christmas. Next are one-page templates for consolidating thematic statements, sermon titles, text selection & worship elements for the special seasons of the Church calendar, e.g. Lent, Holy Week, Advent/Christmas. Additionally, a Year-at-a-Glance page for 2009 is included in case significant ideas come early.

II. 52-week Sermon Worksheets

The section provides 52 plus templates, consisting of 4 pages each, for recording the date, text, title, theme, goal, etc., of the 52-weeks of regular preaching. Here is the place to *pencil (and when more certain, ink) in* your sermon title, outline, possible applications and illustrations. Space is provided to make note of significant biblical words and grammatical phrases that have bearing on correctly exegeting the text.

Philosophy Behind The Sermon Sketchbook©

The principal idea behind this planner is to provide a single, working notebook where preachers can work on an annual plan of sermons before and throughout the year they are to be presented. Planning and preparation are the twin virtues this project encourages. “The plans of the heart belong to a man, but the Lord directs his steps.” Man plans and God will ultimately direct, but the preacher without a plan will be too panicked trying to produce one “on the fly” from week-to-week to notice God’s direction.

Percolating” or “Composting”

It is simply a fact that, if we have certain ideas in our hearts beforehand, everyday occurrences, which reinforce and illustrate these ideas are readily recognized and seized upon. The value of sketching in as many texts and sermon ideas, rough plans, initial titles, etc., as you can in an annual plan, is this: those ideas brew deep down inside your soul the moment you put them in place. So, if you can pencil in the broad strokes of a complete year well in advance, such as which books of the Bible you will do as a series on, whether your Advent season will focus on a doctrinal theme such as the incarnation, or a prophetic series, or character studies of biblical persons, you will find that your mind is primed to see significance in your reading, current news, and life experiences that you would have otherwise missed completely.

Powerful Applications

With a preliminary plan, you are less hurried and more likely to see applications of the text in your parishioners’ lives. Any well-trained person is able to exegete the biblical text well and, in many cases, in minimal time. Application, however, comes with much more difficulty. Freed from the stress of still trying to find a text on Wednesday or Thursday, your mind is freer to consider how the text relates to life where you and your people are living it.