

365 DAYS IN THE STUDY

A Daily Devotional Companion for Preachers

Scripture - Reflection - Prayer - Pulpit Practice

Lucius Alston

A Word to the Preacher

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This devotional is for the preacher before the sermon, the shepherd before the platform, and the servant before the crowd.

A sermon may be prepared in a study, but a preacher is prepared in the presence of God. These pages are designed to help you slow down long enough to let the Word search you before you stand to explain it to others.

Each day contains five movements: a Scripture focus, a reflection, a ministry principle, a prayer, and a pulpit practice. The goal is not another task to complete, but a life from which faithful preaching can flow.

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electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without prior written permission from the publisher, except for brief quotations used in reviews, teaching, or ministry discussion.

Do not rush. Read the passage in context. Sit with the question. Pray honestly. Practice one small act of obedience. Then carry the fruit of that encounter into your ministry.

The preacher who keeps returning to the Book will never run out of something worth saying. Scripture quotations identified as KJV are from the King James Version, which is in the public domain.

How to Use This Book

Read the Scripture in your Bible, not merely the reference on the page. This book is intended for educational, devotional, and ministry-development purposes. It does not replace prayerful Bible study, pastoral accountability, denominational guidance, or professional counsel where needed.

Underline the sentence that exposes, encourages, or corrects you.

Pray the written prayer, then continue in your own words. Title: 365 Days in the Study

Complete the pulpit practice before the day ends. Subtitle: A Daily Devotional Companion for Preachers

Use the weekly review space to notice patterns in your preaching, prayer, character, and care for people. Author: Lucius Alston

The Preacher's Daily Covenant First Edition, 2026

I will open the Bible before I open my mouth. Printed in the United States of America

I will seek the meaning of the text before seeking a memorable title.

I will preach Christ rather than myself. ISBN:

I will love the people more than I love their applause.

I will depend on the Holy Spirit more than on personality, technology, or performance.

I will pursue holiness in private and faithfulness in public.

By the grace of God, I will preach the Word.

January: The Heart Before the Sermon

Monthly focus: The preacher's first responsibility is to be mastered by the message he will deliver.

Day 1 — Before You Build the Sermon

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:2

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season.”

Reflection

Before you ask what the passage will say to the congregation, ask what it is saying to you. The study is not a factory where sermons are manufactured; it is a meeting place where the preacher is examined, corrected, comforted, and commissioned. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

The preacher's first responsibility is to be mastered by the message he will deliver.

Prayer

Lord, search me before I speak to anyone else. Make my heart tender, my motives clean, and my attention fixed on Your Word.

Pulpit Practice

Read the day's passage three times slowly. Write one sentence describing what it reveals about God and one sentence describing what it exposes in you.

Study Notes:

Day 2 — The Word Must Read You

Scripture: Ezra 7:10

“Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach.”

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Study Notes:

Day 3 — A Clean Heart and an Open Bible

Scripture: Psalm 119:18

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.”

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Study Notes:

Day 4 — Do Not Rush the Text

Scripture: John 5:39

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”

Reflection

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Study Notes:

Day 5 — Prayer Is Not the Introduction

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:2

“I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”

Reflection

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Study Notes:

Day 6 — Borrowed Fire Cannot Warm a Congregation

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:5

“We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord.”

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Study Notes:

Day 7 — The Quiet Work of God

Scripture: Acts 6:4

“We will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.”

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Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 8 — When the Notes Are Not Enough

Scripture: James 3:1

“Be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.”

Reflection

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Study Notes:

Day 9 — Explain What God Said

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:2

“Feed the flock of God which is among you.”

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Study Notes:

Day 10 — Context Has a Voice

Scripture: Colossians 1:28

“Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom.”

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Study Notes:

Day 11 — The Main Point Is Not Your Point

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:8

“They read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense.”

Reflection

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Study Notes:

Day 12 — Read It Again

Scripture: Isaiah 55:11

“My word ... shall not return unto me void.”

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Study Notes:

Day 13 — Jesus Is Not an Add-On

Scripture: Jeremiah 20:9

“His word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones.”

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Study Notes:

Day 14 — The Road to Christ

Scripture: Luke 24:27

“Beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”

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Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 15 — The Cross in the Center

Scripture: Romans 10:17

“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

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Study Notes:

Day 16 — Do Not Hide the Gospel

Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:16

“Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine.”

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Study Notes:

Day 17 — Know Their Names

Scripture: Titus 2:7

“In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works.”

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Study Notes:

Day 18 — Feed, Do Not Impress

Scripture: Matthew 9:36

“He was moved with compassion on them.”

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Study Notes:

Day 19 — Compassion Before Correction

Scripture: John 21:17

“Feed my sheep.”

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Study Notes:

Day 20 — The Pew Is Carrying Pain

Scripture: Galatians 1:10

“If I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.”

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Study Notes:

Day 21 — One Clear Sentence

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:4

“Not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.”

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Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 22 — Cut the Extra Point

Scripture: Proverbs 29:25

“The fear of man bringeth a snare.”

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Study Notes:

Day 23 — Application Is a Bridge

Scripture: Psalm 19:14

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight.”

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Study Notes:

Day 24 — Do Not Bury the Invitation

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 12:10

“The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright.”

Reflection

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Study Notes:

Day 25 — Truth Without Apology

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:15

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God ... rightly dividing the word of truth.”

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Study Notes:

Day 26 — Courage Without Cruelty

Scripture: Hebrews 4:12

“The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword.”

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Study Notes:

Day 27 — When Culture Disagrees

Scripture: Acts 20:27

“I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”

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Study Notes:

Day 28 — The Fear of God Over the Fear of People

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:8

“If the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?”

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Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 29 — Character Carries the Sermon

Scripture: Matthew 28:20

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.”

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Study Notes:

Day 30 — The Secret Life of the Preacher

Scripture: Philippians 1:15-18

“Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice.”

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Study Notes:

Day 31 — Applause Is a Poor Compass

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:9

“My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”

Reflection

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Study Notes:

February: Prayer and Dependence

Monthly focus: Prayer is not decoration around sermon preparation; it is dependence woven through it.

Day 32 — The Monday After a Hard Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 126:5

“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.”

Reflection

Some of the most dangerous sermons are technically polished but spiritually unprayed. Skill can organize words, but only dependence keeps the preacher aware that life change belongs to God. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Prayer is not decoration around sermon preparation; it is dependence woven through it.

Prayer

Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

Day 33 — Keep Sowing

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:58

“Be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.”

Reflection

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Pulpit Practice

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Study Notes:

Day 34 — Make the Gospel Plain

Scripture: Hebrews 12:2

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.”

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Study Notes:

Day 35 — Invite Without Manipulating

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:11

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God.”

Reflection

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Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 36 — Speak to the Wandering Heart

Scripture: Micah 6:8

“What doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly.”

Reflection

Some of the most dangerous sermons are technically polished but spiritually unprayed. Skill can organize words, but only dependence keeps the preacher aware that life change belongs to God. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Prayer is not decoration around sermon preparation; it is dependence woven through it.

Prayer

Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

Day 37 — Hope for the Guilty

Scripture: Philippians 2:3

“In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”

Reflection

Some of the most dangerous sermons are technically polished but spiritually unprayed. Skill can organize words, but only dependence keeps the preacher aware that life change belongs to God. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

Day 38 — Remember the Privilege

Scripture: Psalm 51:10

“Create in me a clean heart, O God.”

Reflection

Some of the most dangerous sermons are technically polished but spiritually unprayed. Skill can organize words, but only dependence keeps the preacher aware that life change belongs to God. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

Day 39 — Joy in the Study

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:5

“Our sufficiency is of God.”

Reflection

Some of the most dangerous sermons are technically polished but spiritually unprayed. Skill can organize words, but only dependence keeps the preacher aware that life change belongs to God. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

Day 40 — Thank God for the People

Scripture: Zechariah 4:6

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit.”

Reflection

Some of the most dangerous sermons are technically polished but spiritually unprayed. Skill can organize words, but only dependence keeps the preacher aware that life change belongs to God. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

Day 41 — Celebrate Quiet Fruit

Scripture: Matthew 11:28

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden.”

Reflection

Some of the most dangerous sermons are technically polished but spiritually unprayed. Skill can organize words, but only dependence keeps the preacher aware that life change belongs to God. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

Day 42 — Finish the Year Clean

Scripture: Luke 19:10

“The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Reflection

Some of the most dangerous sermons are technically polished but spiritually unprayed. Skill can organize words, but only dependence keeps the preacher aware that life change belongs to God. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 43 — Leave a Trail of Scripture

Scripture: Romans 1:16

“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ.”

Reflection

Some of the most dangerous sermons are technically polished but spiritually unprayed. Skill can organize words, but only dependence keeps the preacher aware that life change belongs to God. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

Day 44 — The Last Sermon Mindset

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:7

“God hath not given us the spirit of fear.”

Reflection

Some of the most dangerous sermons are technically polished but spiritually unprayed. Skill can organize words, but only dependence keeps the preacher aware that life change belongs to God. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

Day 45 — Faithful to the End

Scripture: Joshua 1:9

“Be strong and of a good courage.”

Reflection

Some of the most dangerous sermons are technically polished but spiritually unprayed. Skill can organize words, but only dependence keeps the preacher aware that life change belongs to God. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

Day 46 — Before You Build the Sermon

Scripture: Ephesians 4:15

“Speaking the truth in love.”

Reflection

Some of the most dangerous sermons are technically polished but spiritually unprayed. Skill can organize words, but only dependence keeps the preacher aware that life change belongs to God. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

Day 47 — The Word Must Read You

Scripture: Colossians 4:6

“Let your speech be always with grace.”

Reflection

Some of the most dangerous sermons are technically polished but spiritually unprayed. Skill can organize words, but only dependence keeps the preacher aware that life change belongs to God. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Prayer is not decoration around sermon preparation; it is dependence woven through it.

Prayer

Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

Day 48 — A Clean Heart and an Open Bible

Scripture: Proverbs 15:1

“A soft answer turneth away wrath.”

Reflection

Some of the most dangerous sermons are technically polished but spiritually unprayed. Skill can organize words, but only dependence keeps the preacher aware that life change belongs to God. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

Day 49 — Do Not Rush the Text

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass.”

Reflection

Some of the most dangerous sermons are technically polished but spiritually unprayed. Skill can organize words, but only dependence keeps the preacher aware that life change belongs to God. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Prayer is not decoration around sermon preparation; it is dependence woven through it.

Prayer

Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 50 — Prayer Is Not the Introduction

Scripture: Psalm 100:2

“Serve the LORD with gladness.”

Reflection

Some of the most dangerous sermons are technically polished but spiritually unprayed. Skill can organize words, but only dependence keeps the preacher aware that life change belongs to God. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Prayer is not decoration around sermon preparation; it is dependence woven through it.

Prayer

Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

Day 51 — Borrowed Fire Cannot Warm a Congregation

Scripture: Philippians 4:4

“Rejoice in the Lord always.”

Reflection

Some of the most dangerous sermons are technically polished but spiritually unprayed. Skill can organize words, but only dependence keeps the preacher aware that life change belongs to God. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Prayer is not decoration around sermon preparation; it is dependence woven through it.

Prayer

Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

Day 52 — The Quiet Work of God

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:18

“In every thing give thanks.”

Reflection

Some of the most dangerous sermons are technically polished but spiritually unprayed. Skill can organize words, but only dependence keeps the preacher aware that life change belongs to God. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Prayer is not decoration around sermon preparation; it is dependence woven through it.

Prayer

Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

Day 53 — When the Notes Are Not Enough

Scripture: Psalm 90:17

“Establish thou the work of our hands upon us.”

Reflection

Some of the most dangerous sermons are technically polished but spiritually unprayed. Skill can organize words, but only dependence keeps the preacher aware that life change belongs to God. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

Day 54 — Explain What God Said

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:7

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”

Reflection

Some of the most dangerous sermons are technically polished but spiritually unprayed. Skill can organize words, but only dependence keeps the preacher aware that life change belongs to God. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Prayer is not decoration around sermon preparation; it is dependence woven through it.

Prayer

Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

Day 55 — Context Has a Voice

Scripture: Matthew 25:21

“Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

Reflection

Some of the most dangerous sermons are technically polished but spiritually unprayed. Skill can organize words, but only dependence keeps the preacher aware that life change belongs to God. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

Day 56 — The Main Point Is Not Your Point

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:2

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season.”

Reflection

Some of the most dangerous sermons are technically polished but spiritually unprayed. Skill can organize words, but only dependence keeps the preacher aware that life change belongs to God. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 57 — Read It Again

Scripture: Ezra 7:10

“Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach.”

Reflection

Some of the most dangerous sermons are technically polished but spiritually unprayed. Skill can organize words, but only dependence keeps the preacher aware that life change belongs to God. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

Day 58 — Jesus Is Not an Add-On

Scripture: Psalm 119:18

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.”

Reflection

Some of the most dangerous sermons are technically polished but spiritually unprayed. Skill can organize words, but only dependence keeps the preacher aware that life change belongs to God. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Prayer is not decoration around sermon preparation; it is dependence woven through it.

Prayer

Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

Day 59 — The Road to Christ

Scripture: John 5:39

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”

Reflection

Some of the most dangerous sermons are technically polished but spiritually unprayed. Skill can organize words, but only dependence keeps the preacher aware that life change belongs to God. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Prayer is not decoration around sermon preparation; it is dependence woven through it.

Prayer

Father, deliver me from self-sufficiency. Let prayer shape my study, my delivery, and my expectations.

Pulpit Practice

Set a ten-minute timer. Pray for the congregation by name before writing another sermon line.

Study Notes:

March: Handling the Word Faithfully

Monthly focus: Clarity is an act of love. Confusion should never be mistaken for depth.

Day 60 — Feed, Do Not Impress

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:2

“I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Clarity is an act of love. Confusion should never be mistaken for depth.

Prayer

God of truth, help me make Your meaning clear without making myself the center.

Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Day 61 — Compassion Before Correction

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:5

“We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Clarity is an act of love. Confusion should never be mistaken for depth.

Prayer

God of truth, help me make Your meaning clear without making myself the center.

Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Day 62 — The Pew Is Carrying Pain

Scripture: Acts 6:4

“We will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Clarity is an act of love. Confusion should never be mistaken for depth.

Prayer

God of truth, help me make Your meaning clear without making myself the center.

Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Day 63 — One Clear Sentence

Scripture: James 3:1

“Be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Clarity is an act of love. Confusion should never be mistaken for depth.

Prayer

God of truth, help me make Your meaning clear without making myself the center.

Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 64 — Cut the Extra Point

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:2

“Feed the flock of God which is among you.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Clarity is an act of love. Confusion should never be mistaken for depth.

Prayer

God of truth, help me make Your meaning clear without making myself the center.

Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Day 65 — Application Is a Bridge

Scripture: Colossians 1:28

“Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Clarity is an act of love. Confusion should never be mistaken for depth.

Prayer

God of truth, help me make Your meaning clear without making myself the center.

Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Day 66 — Do Not Bury the Invitation

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:8

“They read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Clarity is an act of love. Confusion should never be mistaken for depth.

Prayer

God of truth, help me make Your meaning clear without making myself the center.

Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Day 67 — Truth Without Apology

Scripture: Isaiah 55:11

“My word ... shall not return unto me void.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Clarity is an act of love. Confusion should never be mistaken for depth.

Prayer

God of truth, help me make Your meaning clear without making myself the center.

Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Day 68 — Courage Without Cruelty

Scripture: Jeremiah 20:9

“His word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Clarity is an act of love. Confusion should never be mistaken for depth.

Prayer

God of truth, help me make Your meaning clear without making myself the center.

Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Day 69 — When Culture Disagrees

Scripture: Luke 24:27

“Beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Clarity is an act of love. Confusion should never be mistaken for depth.

Prayer

God of truth, help me make Your meaning clear without making myself the center.

Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Day 70 — The Fear of God Over the Fear of People

Scripture: Romans 10:17

“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Clarity is an act of love. Confusion should never be mistaken for depth.

Prayer

God of truth, help me make Your meaning clear without making myself the center.

Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 71 — Character Carries the Sermon

Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:16

“Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Clarity is an act of love. Confusion should never be mistaken for depth.

Prayer

God of truth, help me make Your meaning clear without making myself the center.

Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Day 72 — The Secret Life of the Preacher

Scripture: Titus 2:7

“In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Clarity is an act of love. Confusion should never be mistaken for depth.

Prayer

God of truth, help me make Your meaning clear without making myself the center.

Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Day 73 — Applause Is a Poor Compass

Scripture: Matthew 9:36

“He was moved with compassion on them.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Clarity is an act of love. Confusion should never be mistaken for depth.

Prayer

God of truth, help me make Your meaning clear without making myself the center.

Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Day 74 — Stay Teachable

Scripture: John 21:17

“Feed my sheep.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Clarity is an act of love. Confusion should never be mistaken for depth.

Prayer

God of truth, help me make Your meaning clear without making myself the center.

Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Day 75 — Preach When You Feel Empty

Scripture: Galatians 1:10

“If I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Clarity is an act of love. Confusion should never be mistaken for depth.

Prayer

God of truth, help me make Your meaning clear without making myself the center.

Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Day 76 — Small Crowds, Great Calling

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:4

“Not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Clarity is an act of love. Confusion should never be mistaken for depth.

Prayer

God of truth, help me make Your meaning clear without making myself the center.

Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Day 77 — The Monday After a Hard Sunday

Scripture: Proverbs 29:25

“The fear of man bringeth a snare.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

God of truth, help me make Your meaning clear without making myself the center.

Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 78 — Keep Sowing

Scripture: Psalm 19:14

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

God of truth, help me make Your meaning clear without making myself the center.

Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Day 79 — Make the Gospel Plain

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 12:10

“The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Clarity is an act of love. Confusion should never be mistaken for depth.

Prayer

God of truth, help me make Your meaning clear without making myself the center.

Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Day 80 — Invite Without Manipulating

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:15

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God ... rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

God of truth, help me make Your meaning clear without making myself the center.

Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Day 81 — Speak to the Wandering Heart

Scripture: Hebrews 4:12

“The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Day 82 — Hope for the Guilty

Scripture: Acts 20:27

“I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Day 83 — Remember the Privilege

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:8

“If the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Day 84 — Joy in the Study

Scripture: Matthew 28:20

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.”

Reflection

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Ministry Principle

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Prayer

God of truth, help me make Your meaning clear without making myself the center.

Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 85 — Thank God for the People

Scripture: Philippians 1:15-18

“Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Day 86 — Celebrate Quiet Fruit

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:9

“My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Day 87 — Finish the Year Clean

Scripture: Psalm 126:5

“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

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Study Notes:

Day 88 — Leave a Trail of Scripture

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:58

“Be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

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Study Notes:

Day 89 — The Last Sermon Mindset

Scripture: Hebrews 12:2

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

Day 90 — Faithful to the End

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:11

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God.”

Reflection

The congregation should not need a decoder ring to understand the sermon. Depth is not measured by how difficult you sound, but by how faithfully you make the meaning of Scripture plain. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

God of truth, help me make Your meaning clear without making myself the center.

Pulpit Practice

Rewrite your sermon's main idea in twelve words or fewer. Remove any term an attentive teenager would not understand.

Study Notes:

April: Preaching Christ

Monthly focus: The text sets the agenda. The preacher does not arrive to rescue Scripture with creativity.

Day 91 — Do Not Rush the Text

Scripture: Micah 6:8

“What doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

The text sets the agenda. The preacher does not arrive to rescue Scripture with creativity.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, keep me from using the text to display cleverness. Teach me to serve what You have spoken.

Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 92 — Prayer Is Not the Introduction

Scripture: Philippians 2:3

“In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Day 93 — Borrowed Fire Cannot Warm a Congregation

Scripture: Psalm 51:10

“Create in me a clean heart, O God.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

The text sets the agenda. The preacher does not arrive to rescue Scripture with creativity.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, keep me from using the text to display cleverness. Teach me to serve what You have spoken.

Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Day 94 — The Quiet Work of God

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:5

“Our sufficiency is of God.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

The text sets the agenda. The preacher does not arrive to rescue Scripture with creativity.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, keep me from using the text to display cleverness. Teach me to serve what You have spoken.

Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Day 95 — When the Notes Are Not Enough

Scripture: Zechariah 4:6

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

The text sets the agenda. The preacher does not arrive to rescue Scripture with creativity.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, keep me from using the text to display cleverness. Teach me to serve what You have spoken.

Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Day 96 — Explain What God Said

Scripture: Matthew 11:28

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Lord Jesus, keep me from using the text to display cleverness. Teach me to serve what You have spoken.

Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Day 97 — Context Has a Voice

Scripture: Luke 19:10

“The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

The text sets the agenda. The preacher does not arrive to rescue Scripture with creativity.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, keep me from using the text to display cleverness. Teach me to serve what You have spoken.

Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Day 98 — The Main Point Is Not Your Point

Scripture: Romans 1:16

“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 99 — Read It Again

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:7

“God hath not given us the spirit of fear.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Lord Jesus, keep me from using the text to display cleverness. Teach me to serve what You have spoken.

Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Day 100 — Jesus Is Not an Add-On

Scripture: Joshua 1:9

“Be strong and of a good courage.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

The text sets the agenda. The preacher does not arrive to rescue Scripture with creativity.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, keep me from using the text to display cleverness. Teach me to serve what You have spoken.

Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Day 101 — The Road to Christ

Scripture: Ephesians 4:15

“Speaking the truth in love.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Lord Jesus, keep me from using the text to display cleverness. Teach me to serve what You have spoken.

Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Day 102 — The Cross in the Center

Scripture: Colossians 4:6

“Let your speech be always with grace.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

The text sets the agenda. The preacher does not arrive to rescue Scripture with creativity.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, keep me from using the text to display cleverness. Teach me to serve what You have spoken.

Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Day 103 — Do Not Hide the Gospel

Scripture: Proverbs 15:1

“A soft answer turneth away wrath.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

The text sets the agenda. The preacher does not arrive to rescue Scripture with creativity.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, keep me from using the text to display cleverness. Teach me to serve what You have spoken.

Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Day 104 — Know Their Names

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Lord Jesus, keep me from using the text to display cleverness. Teach me to serve what You have spoken.

Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Day 105 — Feed, Do Not Impress

Scripture: Psalm 100:2

“Serve the LORD with gladness.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

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Prayer

Lord Jesus, keep me from using the text to display cleverness. Teach me to serve what You have spoken.

Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 106 — Compassion Before Correction

Scripture: Philippians 4:4

“Rejoice in the Lord always.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Day 107 — The Pew Is Carrying Pain

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:18

“In every thing give thanks.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Day 108 — One Clear Sentence

Scripture: Psalm 90:17

“Establish thou the work of our hands upon us.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

The text sets the agenda. The preacher does not arrive to rescue Scripture with creativity.

Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Day 109 — Cut the Extra Point

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:7

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Day 110 — Application Is a Bridge

Scripture: Matthew 25:21

“Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Lord Jesus, keep me from using the text to display cleverness. Teach me to serve what You have spoken.

Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Day 111 — Do Not Bury the Invitation

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:2

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Day 112 — Truth Without Apology

Scripture: Ezra 7:10

“Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 113 — Courage Without Cruelty

Scripture: Psalm 119:18

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Day 114 — When Culture Disagrees

Scripture: John 5:39

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Day 115 — The Fear of God Over the Fear of People

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:2

“I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Day 116 — Character Carries the Sermon

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:5

“We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Day 117 — The Secret Life of the Preacher

Scripture: Acts 6:4

“We will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Day 118 — Applause Is a Poor Compass

Scripture: James 3:1

“Be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Day 119 — Stay Teachable

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:2

“Feed the flock of God which is among you.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Lord Jesus, keep me from using the text to display cleverness. Teach me to serve what You have spoken.

Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 120 — Preach When You Feel Empty

Scripture: Colossians 1:28

“Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom.”

Reflection

A clever outline can become a cage if it forces the text to say what the preacher already planned. Let the structure rise from the passage. The Word is the authority; the outline is only a servant. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

The text sets the agenda. The preacher does not arrive to rescue Scripture with creativity.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, keep me from using the text to display cleverness. Teach me to serve what You have spoken.

Pulpit Practice

Circle every point in your outline that cannot be shown directly from the passage. Revise or remove it.

Study Notes:

May: The Shepherd and the Sheep

Monthly focus: Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Day 121 — Make the Gospel Plain

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:8

“They read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 122 — Invite Without Manipulating

Scripture: Isaiah 55:11

“My word ... shall not return unto me void.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 123 — Speak to the Wandering Heart

Scripture: Jeremiah 20:9

“His word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 124 — Hope for the Guilty

Scripture: Luke 24:27

“Beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 125 — Remember the Privilege

Scripture: Romans 10:17

“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 126 — Joy in the Study

Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:16

“Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 127 — Thank God for the People

Scripture: Titus 2:7

“In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 128 — Celebrate Quiet Fruit

Scripture: Matthew 9:36

“He was moved with compassion on them.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 129 — Finish the Year Clean

Scripture: John 21:17

“Feed my sheep.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 130 — Leave a Trail of Scripture

Scripture: Galatians 1:10

“If I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 131 — The Last Sermon Mindset

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:4

“Not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 132 — Faithful to the End

Scripture: Proverbs 29:25

“The fear of man bringeth a snare.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 133 — Before You Build the Sermon

Scripture: Psalm 19:14

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 134 — The Word Must Read You

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 12:10

“The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 135 — A Clean Heart and an Open Bible

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:15

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God ... rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 136 — Do Not Rush the Text

Scripture: Hebrews 4:12

“The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 137 — Prayer Is Not the Introduction

Scripture: Acts 20:27

“I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 138 — Borrowed Fire Cannot Warm a Congregation

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:8

“If the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 139 — The Quiet Work of God

Scripture: Matthew 28:20

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 140 — When the Notes Are Not Enough

Scripture: Philippians 1:15-18

“Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 141 — Explain What God Said

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:9

“My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 142 — Context Has a Voice

Scripture: Psalm 126:5

“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 143 — The Main Point Is Not Your Point

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:58

“Be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 144 — Read It Again

Scripture: Hebrews 12:2

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 145 — Jesus Is Not an Add-On

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:11

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 146 — The Road to Christ

Scripture: Micah 6:8

“What doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 147 — The Cross in the Center

Scripture: Philippians 2:3

“In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 148 — Do Not Hide the Gospel

Scripture: Psalm 51:10

“Create in me a clean heart, O God.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 149 — Know Their Names

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:5

“Our sufficiency is of God.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 150 — Feed, Do Not Impress

Scripture: Zechariah 4:6

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

Day 151 — Compassion Before Correction

Scripture: Matthew 11:28

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden.”

Reflection

People do not merely need principles for a better week. They need the living Christ. Show His holiness, grace, cross, resurrection, reign, and invitation wherever the passage honestly leads. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Christ-centered preaching does not force Jesus into a passage; it shows how every passage belongs within God's redemptive work.

Prayer

Open my eyes to see Christ and give me wisdom to proclaim Him honestly and beautifully.

Pulpit Practice

Add one clear sentence explaining how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or kingdom.

Study Notes:

June: Clarity, Structure, and Application

Monthly focus: Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Day 152 — Application Is a Bridge

Scripture: Luke 19:10

“The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Day 153 — Do Not Bury the Invitation

Scripture: Romans 1:16

“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Day 154 — Truth Without Apology

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:7

“God hath not given us the spirit of fear.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 155 — Courage Without Cruelty

Scripture: Joshua 1:9

“Be strong and of a good courage.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Day 156 — When Culture Disagrees

Scripture: Ephesians 4:15

“Speaking the truth in love.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Day 157 — The Fear of God Over the Fear of People

Scripture: Colossians 4:6

“Let your speech be always with grace.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Day 158 — Character Carries the Sermon

Scripture: Proverbs 15:1

“A soft answer turneth away wrath.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Day 159 — The Secret Life of the Preacher

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Day 160 — Applause Is a Poor Compass

Scripture: Psalm 100:2

“Serve the LORD with gladness.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Day 161 — Stay Teachable

Scripture: Philippians 4:4

“Rejoice in the Lord always.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 162 — Preach When You Feel Empty

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:18

“In every thing give thanks.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Day 163 — Small Crowds, Great Calling

Scripture: Psalm 90:17

“Establish thou the work of our hands upon us.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Day 164 — The Monday After a Hard Sunday

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:7

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Day 165 — Keep Sowing

Scripture: Matthew 25:21

“Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Day 166 — Make the Gospel Plain

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:2

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Day 167 — Invite Without Manipulating

Scripture: Ezra 7:10

“Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Day 168 — Speak to the Wandering Heart

Scripture: Psalm 119:18

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 169 — Hope for the Guilty

Scripture: John 5:39

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Day 170 — Remember the Privilege

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:2

“I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Day 171 — Joy in the Study

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:5

“We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Day 172 — Thank God for the People

Scripture: Acts 6:4

“We will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Day 173 — Celebrate Quiet Fruit

Scripture: James 3:1

“Be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Day 174 — Finish the Year Clean

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:2

“Feed the flock of God which is among you.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Day 175 — Leave a Trail of Scripture

Scripture: Colossians 1:28

“Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 176 — The Last Sermon Mindset

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:8

“They read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Day 177 — Faithful to the End

Scripture: Isaiah 55:11

“My word ... shall not return unto me void.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Day 178 — Before You Build the Sermon

Scripture: Jeremiah 20:9

“His word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Day 179 — The Word Must Read You

Scripture: Luke 24:27

“Beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Day 180 — A Clean Heart and an Open Bible

Scripture: Romans 10:17

“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

Day 181 — Do Not Rush the Text

Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:16

“Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine.”

Reflection

Every pew contains a story you cannot see. Someone is grieving, afraid, ashamed, tempted, exhausted, or searching. Preach to souls, not statistics. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Shepherds preach differently when they know the wounds, questions, and names in the room.

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, give me compassion for the people You have entrusted to my care.

Pulpit Practice

Contact one member who is hurting or absent. Listen without turning the conversation into sermon material.

Study Notes:

July: Courage in the Pulpit

Monthly focus: Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Day 182 — When the Notes Are Not Enough

Scripture: Titus 2:7

“In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 183 — Explain What God Said

Scripture: Matthew 9:36

“He was moved with compassion on them.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Day 184 — Context Has a Voice

Scripture: John 21:17

“Feed my sheep.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Day 185 — The Main Point Is Not Your Point

Scripture: Galatians 1:10

“If I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Day 186 — Read It Again

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:4

“Not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Day 187 — Jesus Is Not an Add-On

Scripture: Proverbs 29:25

“The fear of man bringeth a snare.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Day 188 — The Road to Christ

Scripture: Psalm 19:14

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Day 189 — The Cross in the Center

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 12:10

“The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 190 — Do Not Hide the Gospel

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:15

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God ... rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Day 191 — Know Their Names

Scripture: Hebrews 4:12

“The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Day 192 — Feed, Do Not Impress

Scripture: Acts 20:27

“I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Day 193 — Compassion Before Correction

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:8

“If the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Day 194 — The Pew Is Carrying Pain

Scripture: Matthew 28:20

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Day 195 — One Clear Sentence

Scripture: Philippians 1:15-18

“Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Day 196 — Cut the Extra Point

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:9

“My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 197 — Application Is a Bridge

Scripture: Psalm 126:5

“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Day 198 — Do Not Bury the Invitation

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:58

“Be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Day 199 — Truth Without Apology

Scripture: Hebrews 12:2

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Day 200 — Courage Without Cruelty

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:11

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Day 201 — When Culture Disagrees

Scripture: Micah 6:8

“What doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Day 202 — The Fear of God Over the Fear of People

Scripture: Philippians 2:3

“In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Day 203 — Character Carries the Sermon

Scripture: Psalm 51:10

“Create in me a clean heart, O God.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 204 — The Secret Life of the Preacher

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:5

“Our sufficiency is of God.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Day 205 — Applause Is a Poor Compass

Scripture: Zechariah 4:6

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Day 206 — Stay Teachable

Scripture: Matthew 11:28

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Day 207 — Preach When You Feel Empty

Scripture: Luke 19:10

“The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Day 208 — Small Crowds, Great Calling

Scripture: Romans 1:16

“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Day 209 — The Monday After a Hard Sunday

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:7

“God hath not given us the spirit of fear.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Day 210 — Keep Sowing

Scripture: Joshua 1:9

“Be strong and of a good courage.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 211 — Make the Gospel Plain

Scripture: Ephesians 4:15

“Speaking the truth in love.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

Day 212 — Invite Without Manipulating

Scripture: Colossians 4:6

“Let your speech be always with grace.”

Reflection

Biblical courage is neither timid nor harsh. It refuses to dilute truth, yet it remembers that the people hearing it are image-bearers who need both conviction and hope. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Courage tells the truth; love determines how the truth is carried.

Prayer

Give me courage without pride, tenderness without compromise, and truth spoken in love.

Pulpit Practice

Identify the hardest truth in your upcoming message. Practice saying it calmly, clearly, and compassionately.

Study Notes:

August: Humility and Character

Monthly focus: Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Day 213 — Joy in the Study

Scripture: Proverbs 15:1

“A soft answer turneth away wrath.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher's life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 214 — Thank God for the People

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher's life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 215 — Celebrate Quiet Fruit

Scripture: Psalm 100:2

“Serve the LORD with gladness.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher’s life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 216 — Finish the Year Clean

Scripture: Philippians 4:4

“Rejoice in the Lord always.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher’s life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 217 — Leave a Trail of Scripture

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:18

“In every thing give thanks.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher's life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 218 — The Last Sermon Mindset

Scripture: Psalm 90:17

“Establish thou the work of our hands upon us.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher's life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 219 — Faithful to the End

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:7

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher's life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 220 — Before You Build the Sermon

Scripture: Matthew 25:21

“Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher's life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 221 — The Word Must Read You

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:2

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher’s life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 222 — A Clean Heart and an Open Bible

Scripture: Ezra 7:10

“Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher's life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 223 — Do Not Rush the Text

Scripture: Psalm 119:18

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher's life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 224 — Prayer Is Not the Introduction

Scripture: John 5:39

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher's life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 225 — Borrowed Fire Cannot Warm a Congregation

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:2

“I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher's life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 226 — The Quiet Work of God

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:5

“We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher’s life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 227 — When the Notes Are Not Enough

Scripture: Acts 6:4

“We will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher's life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 228 — Explain What God Said

Scripture: James 3:1

“Be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher's life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 229 — Context Has a Voice

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:2

“Feed the flock of God which is among you.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher’s life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 230 — The Main Point Is Not Your Point

Scripture: Colossians 1:28

“Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher's life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 231 — Read It Again

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:8

“They read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher's life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 232 — Jesus Is Not an Add-On

Scripture: Isaiah 55:11

“My word ... shall not return unto me void.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher's life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 233 — The Road to Christ

Scripture: Jeremiah 20:9

“His word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher's life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 234 — The Cross in the Center

Scripture: Luke 24:27

“Beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher's life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 235 — Do Not Hide the Gospel

Scripture: Romans 10:17

“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher’s life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 236 — Know Their Names

Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:16

“Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher’s life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 237 — Feed, Do Not Impress

Scripture: Titus 2:7

“In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher's life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 238 — Compassion Before Correction

Scripture: Matthew 9:36

“He was moved with compassion on them.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher's life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 239 — The Pew Is Carrying Pain

Scripture: John 21:17

“Feed my sheep.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher’s life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 240 — One Clear Sentence

Scripture: Galatians 1:10

“If I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher’s life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 241 — Cut the Extra Point

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:4

“Not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher's life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 242 — Application Is a Bridge

Scripture: Proverbs 29:25

“The fear of man bringeth a snare.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher's life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

Day 243 — Do Not Bury the Invitation

Scripture: Psalm 19:14

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight.”

Reflection

The sermon cannot permanently outrun the preacher's life. Guard the heart, the home, the habits, and the hidden places. A gifted voice never substitutes for a faithful walk. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Private character gives public words their moral weight.

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart. Let my private life agree with my public message.

Pulpit Practice

Ask a trusted person whether your conduct supports the message you regularly preach. Receive the answer without defending yourself.

Study Notes:

September: Endurance and Discouragement

Monthly focus: Faithfulness is measured over years, not by one Sunday, one crowd, or one compliment.

Day 244 — The Fear of God Over the Fear of People

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 12:10

“The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Faithfulness is measured over years, not by one Sunday, one crowd, or one compliment.

Prayer

Strengthen me to keep sowing when results are hidden and encouragement is scarce.

Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Day 245 — Character Carries the Sermon

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:15

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God ... rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Faithfulness is measured over years, not by one Sunday, one crowd, or one compliment.

Prayer

Strengthen me to keep sowing when results are hidden and encouragement is scarce.

Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 246 — The Secret Life of the Preacher

Scripture: Hebrews 4:12

“The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Faithfulness is measured over years, not by one Sunday, one crowd, or one compliment.

Prayer

Strengthen me to keep sowing when results are hidden and encouragement is scarce.

Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Day 247 — Applause Is a Poor Compass

Scripture: Acts 20:27

“I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Faithfulness is measured over years, not by one Sunday, one crowd, or one compliment.

Prayer

Strengthen me to keep sowing when results are hidden and encouragement is scarce.

Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Day 248 — Stay Teachable

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:8

“If the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Faithfulness is measured over years, not by one Sunday, one crowd, or one compliment.

Prayer

Strengthen me to keep sowing when results are hidden and encouragement is scarce.

Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Day 249 — Preach When You Feel Empty

Scripture: Matthew 28:20

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Faithfulness is measured over years, not by one Sunday, one crowd, or one compliment.

Prayer

Strengthen me to keep sowing when results are hidden and encouragement is scarce.

Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Day 250 — Small Crowds, Great Calling

Scripture: Philippians 1:15-18

“Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Faithfulness is measured over years, not by one Sunday, one crowd, or one compliment.

Prayer

Strengthen me to keep sowing when results are hidden and encouragement is scarce.

Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Day 251 — The Monday After a Hard Sunday

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:9

“My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Faithfulness is measured over years, not by one Sunday, one crowd, or one compliment.

Prayer

Strengthen me to keep sowing when results are hidden and encouragement is scarce.

Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Day 252 — Keep Sowing

Scripture: Psalm 126:5

“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Faithfulness is measured over years, not by one Sunday, one crowd, or one compliment.

Prayer

Strengthen me to keep sowing when results are hidden and encouragement is scarce.

Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 253 — Make the Gospel Plain

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:58

“Be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Strengthen me to keep sowing when results are hidden and encouragement is scarce.

Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Day 254 — Invite Without Manipulating

Scripture: Hebrews 12:2

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Strengthen me to keep sowing when results are hidden and encouragement is scarce.

Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Day 255 — Speak to the Wandering Heart

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:11

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Day 256 — Hope for the Guilty

Scripture: Micah 6:8

“What doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Day 257 — Remember the Privilege

Scripture: Philippians 2:3

“In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Day 258 — Joy in the Study

Scripture: Psalm 51:10

“Create in me a clean heart, O God.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Day 259 — Thank God for the People

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:5

“Our sufficiency is of God.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

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Prayer

Strengthen me to keep sowing when results are hidden and encouragement is scarce.

Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 260 — Celebrate Quiet Fruit

Scripture: Zechariah 4:6

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

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Prayer

Strengthen me to keep sowing when results are hidden and encouragement is scarce.

Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Day 261 — Finish the Year Clean

Scripture: Matthew 11:28

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Strengthen me to keep sowing when results are hidden and encouragement is scarce.

Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Day 262 — Leave a Trail of Scripture

Scripture: Luke 19:10

“The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Day 263 — The Last Sermon Mindset

Scripture: Romans 1:16

“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Strengthen me to keep sowing when results are hidden and encouragement is scarce.

Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Day 264 — Faithful to the End

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:7

“God hath not given us the spirit of fear.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

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Prayer

Strengthen me to keep sowing when results are hidden and encouragement is scarce.

Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Day 265 — Before You Build the Sermon

Scripture: Joshua 1:9

“Be strong and of a good courage.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

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Prayer

Strengthen me to keep sowing when results are hidden and encouragement is scarce.

Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Day 266 — The Word Must Read You

Scripture: Ephesians 4:15

“Speaking the truth in love.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Strengthen me to keep sowing when results are hidden and encouragement is scarce.

Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 267 — A Clean Heart and an Open Bible

Scripture: Colossians 4:6

“Let your speech be always with grace.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Strengthen me to keep sowing when results are hidden and encouragement is scarce.

Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Day 268 — Do Not Rush the Text

Scripture: Proverbs 15:1

“A soft answer turneth away wrath.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Strengthen me to keep sowing when results are hidden and encouragement is scarce.

Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Day 269 — Prayer Is Not the Introduction

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Strengthen me to keep sowing when results are hidden and encouragement is scarce.

Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Day 270 — Borrowed Fire Cannot Warm a Congregation

Scripture: Psalm 100:2

“Serve the LORD with gladness.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Faithfulness is measured over years, not by one Sunday, one crowd, or one compliment.

Prayer

Strengthen me to keep sowing when results are hidden and encouragement is scarce.

Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Day 271 — The Quiet Work of God

Scripture: Philippians 4:4

“Rejoice in the Lord always.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Faithfulness is measured over years, not by one Sunday, one crowd, or one compliment.

Prayer

Strengthen me to keep sowing when results are hidden and encouragement is scarce.

Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Day 272 — When the Notes Are Not Enough

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:18

“In every thing give thanks.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Faithfulness is measured over years, not by one Sunday, one crowd, or one compliment.

Prayer

Strengthen me to keep sowing when results are hidden and encouragement is scarce.

Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Day 273 — Explain What God Said

Scripture: Psalm 90:17

“Establish thou the work of our hands upon us.”

Reflection

Some Sundays feel small. Some sermons seem to disappear. Some seasons produce little visible fruit. Keep sowing. The farmer does not dig up the seed every Monday to see whether it worked. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Strengthen me to keep sowing when results are hidden and encouragement is scarce.

Pulpit Practice

Write down one invisible act of faithfulness you will complete this week even if nobody notices.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

October: Evangelism and Invitation

Monthly focus: The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Day 274 — Jesus Is Not an Add-On

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:7

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 275 — The Road to Christ

Scripture: Matthew 25:21

“Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 276 — The Cross in the Center

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:2

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 277 — Do Not Hide the Gospel

Scripture: Ezra 7:10

“Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 278 — Know Their Names

Scripture: Psalm 119:18

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 279 — Feed, Do Not Impress

Scripture: John 5:39

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 280 — Compassion Before Correction

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:2

“I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 281 — The Pew Is Carrying Pain

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:5

“We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 282 — One Clear Sentence

Scripture: Acts 6:4

“We will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 283 — Cut the Extra Point

Scripture: James 3:1

“Be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 284 — Application Is a Bridge

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:2

“Feed the flock of God which is among you.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 285 — Do Not Bury the Invitation

Scripture: Colossians 1:28

“Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 286 — Truth Without Apology

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:8

“They read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 287 — Courage Without Cruelty

Scripture: Isaiah 55:11

“My word ... shall not return unto me void.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 288 — When Culture Disagrees

Scripture: Jeremiah 20:9

“His word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 289 — The Fear of God Over the Fear of People

Scripture: Luke 24:27

“Beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 290 — Character Carries the Sermon

Scripture: Romans 10:17

“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 291 — The Secret Life of the Preacher

Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:16

“Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 292 — Applause Is a Poor Compass

Scripture: Titus 2:7

“In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 293 — Stay Teachable

Scripture: Matthew 9:36

“He was moved with compassion on them.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 294 — Preach When You Feel Empty

Scripture: John 21:17

“Feed my sheep.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 295 — Small Crowds, Great Calling

Scripture: Galatians 1:10

“If I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 296 — The Monday After a Hard Sunday

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:4

“Not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 297 — Keep Sowing

Scripture: Proverbs 29:25

“The fear of man bringeth a snare.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 298 — Make the Gospel Plain

Scripture: Psalm 19:14

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 299 — Invite Without Manipulating

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 12:10

“The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 300 — Speak to the Wandering Heart

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:15

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God ... rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 301 — Hope for the Guilty

Scripture: Hebrews 4:12

“The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 302 — Remember the Privilege

Scripture: Acts 20:27

“I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 303 — Joy in the Study

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:8

“If the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

Day 304 — Thank God for the People

Scripture: Matthew 28:20

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.”

Reflection

An invitation is not pressure. It is a clear, honest call to respond to what God has said. Trust the Spirit to convict; your task is to make the gospel understandable and the response unmistakable. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

The gospel must be clear enough for the lost to hear and rich enough for the church to keep growing.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make the gospel clear through me and draw hearts to Christ without manipulation.

Pulpit Practice

State the gospel in sixty seconds using ordinary language. Make sure sin, Christ, cross, resurrection, grace, faith, and response are understandable.

Study Notes:

November: Gratitude and Joy

Monthly focus: Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Day 305 — The Last Sermon Mindset

Scripture: Philippians 1:15-18

“Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Day 306 — Faithful to the End

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:9

“My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Day 307 — Before You Build the Sermon

Scripture: Psalm 126:5

“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Day 308 — The Word Must Read You

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:58

“Be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 309 — A Clean Heart and an Open Bible

Scripture: Hebrews 12:2

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Day 310 — Do Not Rush the Text

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:11

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Day 311 — Prayer Is Not the Introduction

Scripture: Micah 6:8

“What doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Day 312 — Borrowed Fire Cannot Warm a Congregation

Scripture: Philippians 2:3

“In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Day 313 — The Quiet Work of God

Scripture: Psalm 51:10

“Create in me a clean heart, O God.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Day 314 — When the Notes Are Not Enough

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:5

“Our sufficiency is of God.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Day 315 — Explain What God Said

Scripture: Zechariah 4:6

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 316 — Context Has a Voice

Scripture: Matthew 11:28

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Day 317 — The Main Point Is Not Your Point

Scripture: Luke 19:10

“The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Day 318 — Read It Again

Scripture: Romans 1:16

“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Day 319 — Jesus Is Not an Add-On

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:7

“God hath not given us the spirit of fear.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Day 320 — The Road to Christ

Scripture: Joshua 1:9

“Be strong and of a good courage.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Day 321 — The Cross in the Center

Scripture: Ephesians 4:15

“Speaking the truth in love.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Day 322 — Do Not Hide the Gospel

Scripture: Colossians 4:6

“Let your speech be always with grace.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 323 — Know Their Names

Scripture: Proverbs 15:1

“A soft answer turneth away wrath.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Day 324 — Feed, Do Not Impress

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Day 325 — Compassion Before Correction

Scripture: Psalm 100:2

“Serve the LORD with gladness.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Day 326 — The Pew Is Carrying Pain

Scripture: Philippians 4:4

“Rejoice in the Lord always.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Day 327 — One Clear Sentence

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:18

“In every thing give thanks.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Day 328 — Cut the Extra Point

Scripture: Psalm 90:17

“Establish thou the work of our hands upon us.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Day 329 — Application Is a Bridge

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:7

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 330 — Do Not Bury the Invitation

Scripture: Matthew 25:21

“Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Day 331 — Truth Without Apology

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:2

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Day 332 — Courage Without Cruelty

Scripture: Ezra 7:10

“Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Day 333 — When Culture Disagrees

Scripture: Psalm 119:18

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

Day 334 — The Fear of God Over the Fear of People

Scripture: John 5:39

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”

Reflection

Do not lose the wonder of being allowed to handle God's Word. The task is heavy, but it is also joyful. Heaven uses ordinary servants to announce extraordinary grace. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Joy is not shallowness. It is confidence that God's Word is still alive and Christ is still building His church.

Prayer

Restore the joy of my calling. Let gratitude replace routine and wonder replace weariness.

Pulpit Practice

List three privileges of preaching that you have recently treated like burdens. Thank God for each one.

Study Notes:

December: Finishing Faithfully

Monthly focus: Finishing well begins with today's hidden obedience.

Day 335 — Stay Teachable

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:2

“I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Finishing well begins with today's hidden obedience.

Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Day 336 — Preach When You Feel Empty

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:5

“We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 337 — Small Crowds, Great Calling

Scripture: Acts 6:4

“We will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Day 338 — The Monday After a Hard Sunday

Scripture: James 3:1

“Be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Day 339 — Keep Sowing

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:2

“Feed the flock of God which is among you.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Finishing well begins with today's hidden obedience.

Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Day 340 — Make the Gospel Plain

Scripture: Colossians 1:28

“Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Day 341 — Invite Without Manipulating

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:8

“They read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Day 342 — Speak to the Wandering Heart

Scripture: Isaiah 55:11

“My word ... shall not return unto me void.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Finishing well begins with today's hidden obedience.

Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Day 343 — Hope for the Guilty

Scripture: Jeremiah 20:9

“His word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 344 — Remember the Privilege

Scripture: Luke 24:27

“Beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Day 345 — Joy in the Study

Scripture: Romans 10:17

“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Day 346 — Thank God for the People

Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:16

“Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Finishing well begins with today's hidden obedience.

Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Day 347 — Celebrate Quiet Fruit

Scripture: Titus 2:7

“In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Day 348 — Finish the Year Clean

Scripture: Matthew 9:36

“He was moved with compassion on them.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Day 349 — Leave a Trail of Scripture

Scripture: John 21:17

“Feed my sheep.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Finishing well begins with today's hidden obedience.

Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Day 350 — The Last Sermon Mindset

Scripture: Galatians 1:10

“If I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 351 — Faithful to the End

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:4

“Not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Finishing well begins with today's hidden obedience.

Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Day 352 — Before You Build the Sermon

Scripture: Proverbs 29:25

“The fear of man bringeth a snare.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Finishing well begins with today's hidden obedience.

Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Day 353 — The Word Must Read You

Scripture: Psalm 19:14

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Day 354 — A Clean Heart and an Open Bible

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 12:10

“The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Day 355 — Do Not Rush the Text

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:15

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God ... rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

Finishing well begins with today's hidden obedience.

Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Day 356 — Prayer Is Not the Introduction

Scripture: Hebrews 4:12

“The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Finishing well begins with today's hidden obedience.

Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Day 357 — Borrowed Fire Cannot Warm a Congregation

Scripture: Acts 20:27

“I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 358 — The Quiet Work of God

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:8

“If the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. A congregation can sense when words have passed through the preacher's heart rather than merely across a screen.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Day 359 — When the Notes Are Not Enough

Scripture: Matthew 28:20

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. Do not confuse urgency with hurry. Give the passage enough attention to expose your assumptions.

Ministry Principle

Finishing well begins with today's hidden obedience.

Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Day 360 — Explain What God Said

Scripture: Philippians 1:15-18

“Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Day 361 — Context Has a Voice

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:9

“My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. Today, resist the temptation to prepare for other people before allowing God to deal with you.

Ministry Principle

Finishing well begins with today's hidden obedience.

Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Day 362 — The Main Point Is Not Your Point

Scripture: Psalm 126:5

“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. The pulpit is strongest when the preacher arrives as a servant who has already bowed before the truth.

Ministry Principle

Finishing well begins with today's hidden obedience.

Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Day 363 — Read It Again

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:58

“Be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.”

Reflection

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Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Day 364 — Jesus Is Not an Add-On

Scripture: Hebrews 12:2

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.”

Reflection

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Ministry Principle

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Prayer

Keep me faithful to the end. May my final years be marked by humility, truth, love, and endurance.

Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Weekly Review: What did God correct, strengthen, or clarify in me this week?

Day 365 — The Road to Christ

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:11

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God.”

Reflection

One day your voice will be silent, but the Word you faithfully planted may still be bearing fruit. Preach today with the end in view: not fame, but faithfulness. The goal is not to sound impressive. The goal is to leave people with a clearer view of God and a faithful response to His Word.

Ministry Principle

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Prayer

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Pulpit Practice

Write a one-paragraph legacy prayer describing what you hope remains in people after your ministry ends.

Study Notes:

Closing Charge: Keep Returning to the Book

You have now walked through a year of Scriptures, prayers, questions, practices, and reminders. The deepest lesson is also the simplest: the preacher never graduates from dependence.

There will always be another method, platform, trend, conference, controversy, and pressure. The calling remains: study diligently, pray honestly, live cleanly, love people, proclaim Christ, and trust God with the results.

Close this devotional. Open your Bible. Continue the work.

Annual Reflection

How has my relationship with Scripture changed?

Where has prayer become more central to my preparation?

What preaching habit most needs to change next year?

How have I grown in clarity, courage, compassion, and humility?

What evidence of God's quiet fruit have I overlooked?

What covenant will I carry into the coming year?
