



PREACHING IN A FEW COURSES

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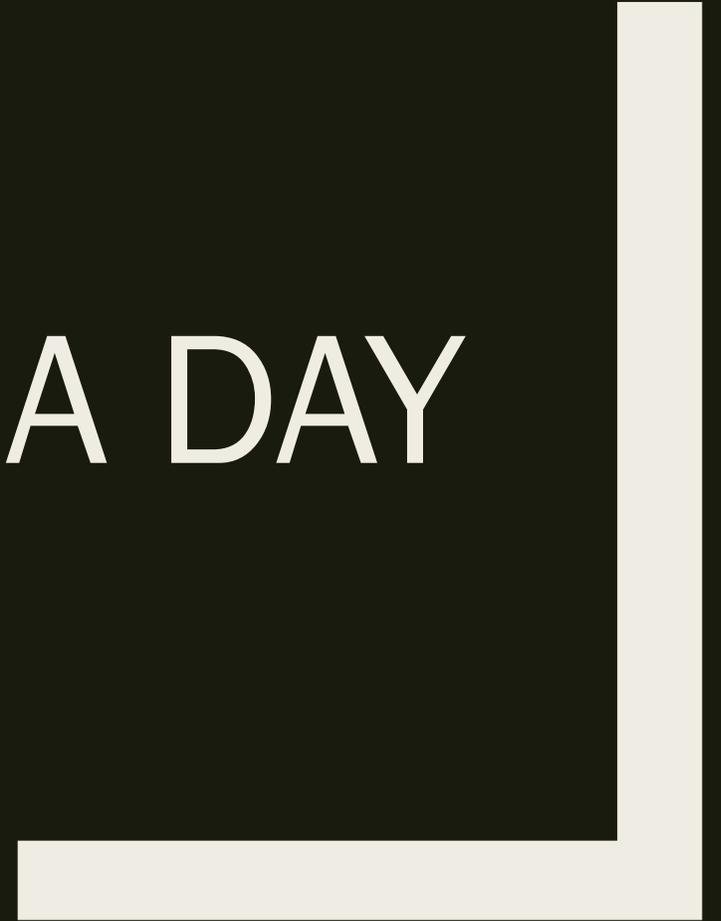
ICEBREAKER



Take ten minutes in your preaching groups to discuss the following:

- Any “get-to-know-you” things you may need to cover (name, home church, etc.)
- Who is a preacher you hope to emulate in your preaching?
- Describe the best meal you’ve ever eaten.
- Choose someone to “share out” from your group.

PREACHING IN A DAY



If you had just a few hours to cover the basics of preaching, what would you focus on?

- Be yourself.
- Read a lot.
- Listen a lot.
- Only say words that are worth hearing.
- Grace.
- Making a connection and **demonstrating genuine empathy.**

Our modern “newspapers”

- 86% of Americans get news from a smartphone, computer, or tablet*.
 - *Of those, 53% indicate **social media** is the most likely source for news retrieval.*
- In order of preference, print publication ranks behind digital platforms, television, and radio for Americans in how they get their news.

So what does this mean for preachers?

- Pay attention to news and activity happening across multiple media outlets, *even if they aren't your favorite!*
- Remember the Wesleyan Quadrilateral
 - *Scripture first, then everything else.*
 - *Bring in relevant, worthwhile illustrations from reason, tradition, or experience that will illuminate the word of God.*

TWO BIG QUESTIONS



What is a sermon?

- “Preaching is either by God and about God, or it is silly.” –Bishop Will Willimon
- Ultimately, preaching is the proclamation of God’s word to God’s kids, yourself included.

What isn't a sermon?

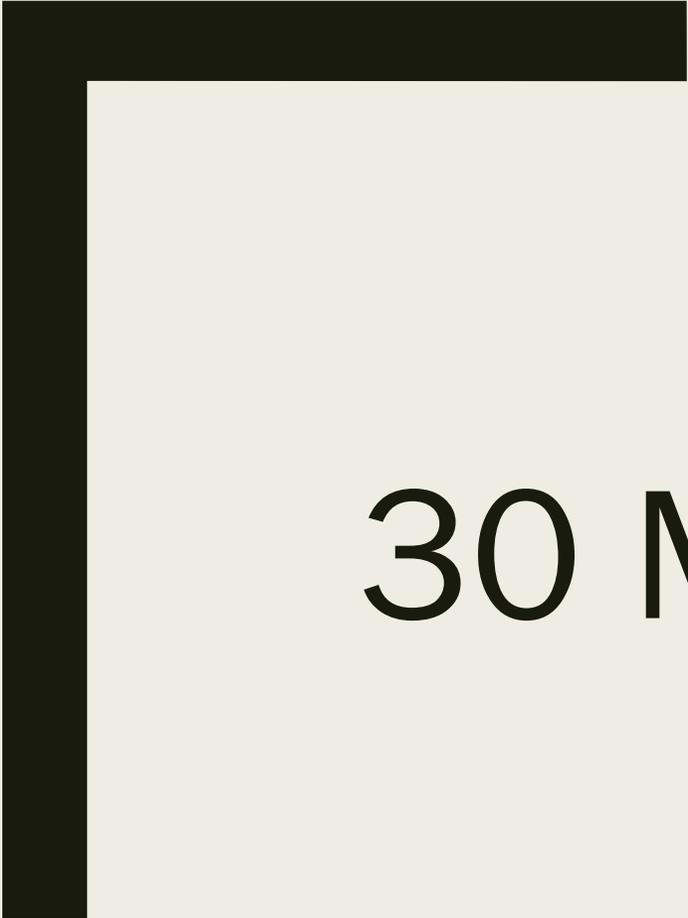
- It isn't a motivational speech.
- It isn't an academic lecture.
- It isn't an opportunity for you to speak on a subject you want to speak on.
- It isn't a time for you to hog the spotlight.

Begin with the end in mind

- Every preacher should have this thought lingering in her mind as she prepares to preach: “**What’s the one big thing that everyone who is in attendance should take away from this message?**”
- Two general ways of expressing this:
 - *Everyone who comes to ABC UMC today should _____ **because** _____.*
 - *Everyone who comes to ABC UMC today **can** _____ **by** _____.*

BREAKOUT GROUPS





30 MINUTE BREAK



**PREPARING TO
PREACH WELL**



Preaching like a chef

- Select the menu
- Obtain the ingredients
- Prepping the ingredients
- Executing the meal
- Service

Selecting the menu (deciding what you will be preaching)

- Start sooner than later. Discernment is your friend.
 - *Occasionally, you have to preach “on the spot”, but this is not normative.*
- Consider Barth – what needs to be addressed in the Scriptures and the community?
- Preach sermons *one at a time*.
- Exegesis v. Eisegesis
- A word about the lectionary

Obtaining the ingredients (building your study portfolio)

- Multiple versions of Scripture
- Commentaries
- Relevant reading on the text
- Online resources
- Podcasts
- Crowdsourcing (careful here!)
- Discussion groups

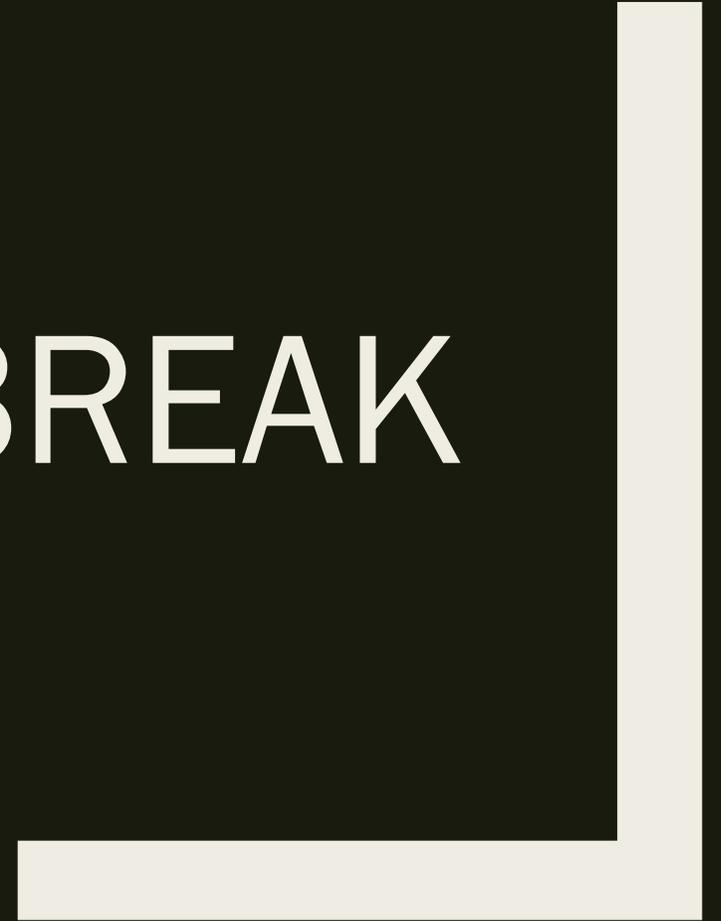
Prepping the ingredients (drafting)

- Ensure that you give yourself ample time to read and prepare a draft manuscript each week.
- Notate your research – plagiarism is bad.
- Expect to put in approximately **one hour of preparation for every minute you are going to preach.**
- Always begin with a full manuscript that you “love enough to let go”.



Some other prep tips...

WIGGLE BREAK



Executing the meal (delivery preparation)

- You have to practice.
 - *If the first time you speak your sermon aloud is the time you are preaching it to the congregation, you have not prepared well to preach.*
- Methods of delivery
- From the heart, not the page

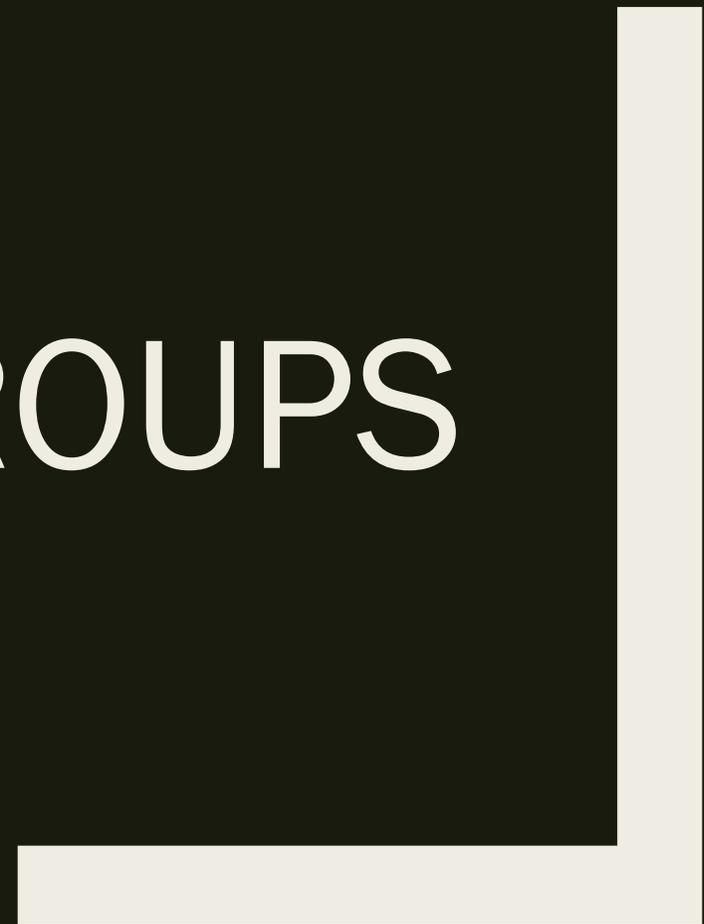
Service (service)

- The night before, pay attention to your hydration.
- Stay calm. God's got you and you've got this.
- Be present with people.
- Smile, be generous, and know that those gathered want the best in and from you.
- Be attentive to the moving of the Spirit.
- Let your passion shine.

SURPRISE! A sixth movement!

- After-action. What were the reviews?
 - *Believe yourself. How would you assess your preaching? Go back to your original “main thing”.*
 - *Who can you trust to give you **honest** feedback?*
 - In the church community
 - Amongst your colleagues
 - A word about using your family for this (and for anything preaching-related)

BREAKOUT GROUPS



Q+A



BE IN TOUCH!
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