



PREACHING IN A FEW COURSES

Rev. Jonathan Page
Lead Pastor, Herndon UMC



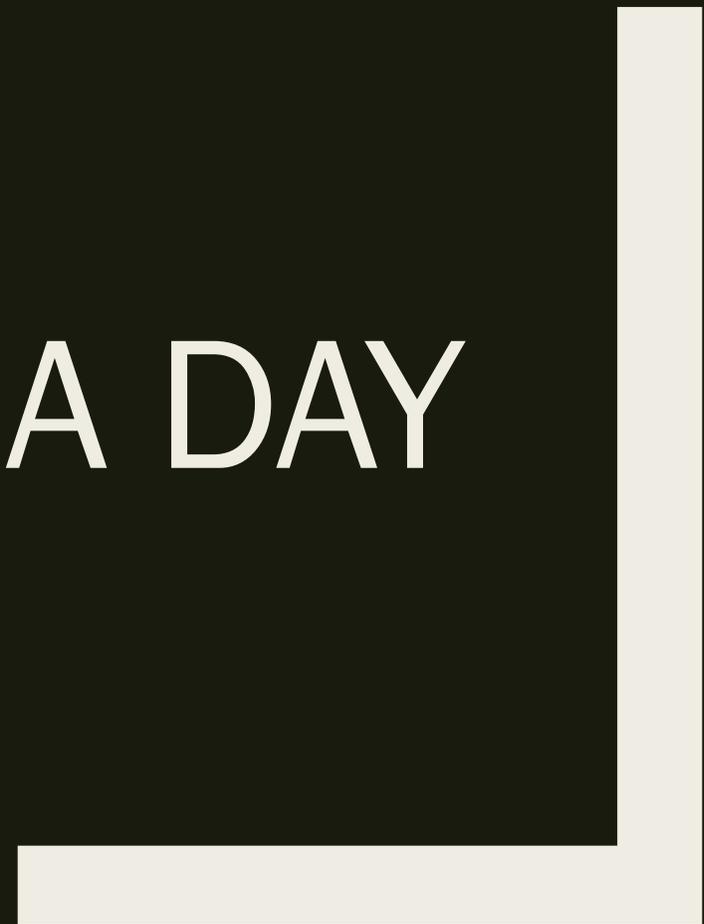
ICEBREAKER



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.**

One year later: Haiti

Uncertainty and chaos continue

By Michael Swan
The Catholic Register

From inside a brown, battered SUV, with the doors locked and the windows up, and in the company of a seasoned Haitian driver, the Petionville Market after dark is as frightening as any place I've ever been.

I have in my time been posted around and about the back streets in Xian, China, and in the Squares in London. I have seen how the British and the Americans crawl like insects over the

crash of ghostly bodies slipping by our windows in the darkness. No doubt, pre-earthquake Haiti was a dicey sort of place for outsiders. In 1994 Haitian gang members scared off the U.S. Marines with machetes and stones before America's elite soldiers had even landed on Haitian soil. The earthquake, I believe, has made us all more afraid.

Nothing like the uncertainty of the half-century since we were first asked to make us afraid. If there were a simple, definite answer the question wouldn't be worth asking. Journalists ask questions that have more than one answer because multiple, even contradictory, answers are closer to the truth.

With 230,000 dead, more than half of Port-au-Prince still in ruins, over a million people still living under tarpaulins or in tents, there are far too many of those stories to even begin. And repetition adds little in the way of insight.

The Catholic Register wanted to know, what now? After a year, what has happened and what direction is Haiti taking? If there were a simple, definite answer the question wouldn't be worth asking. Journalists ask questions that have more than one answer because multiple, even contradictory, answers are closer to the truth.

after the earthquake

Catholic aid organizations in Haiti

By Michael Swan
The Catholic Register

Chances are that the first voices you hear in post-earthquake Haiti will have that self-assured twang of Southern Baptists from Houston, Atlanta, Tallahassee or Nashville. They lead in bunches at Toussaint Louverture International Airport wearing T-shirts that read "Healing Haiti" and other rather proud claims.

They've come to be with the people of Haiti in whatever way they can. Many of them have real skills, from engineering to medicine to construction. They may be mostly unilingual and perhaps culturally tone deaf, but we should remember that the first Bible translated into Creole was a mostly Baptist effort.

Haiti is 80 per cent Catholic, but Catholic visitors are rarely seen.

Catholics are there however, said American Dr. Peter Kelly, "We need to do a better job of educating the world about all that Catholics are doing in Haiti," he told The Register by email.

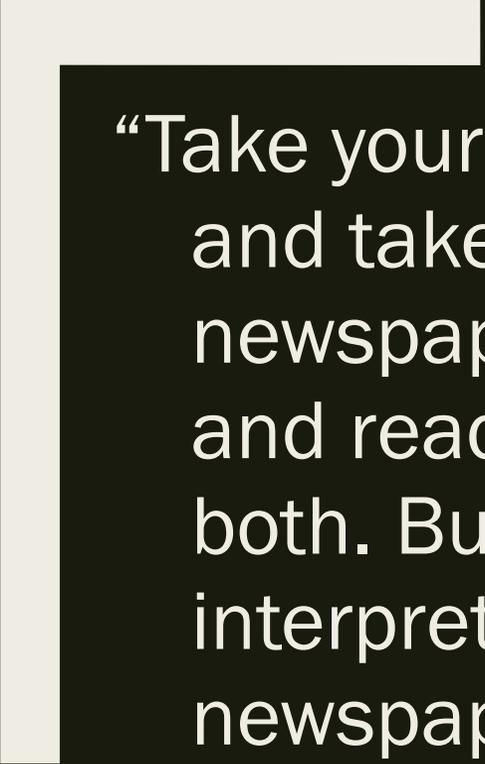
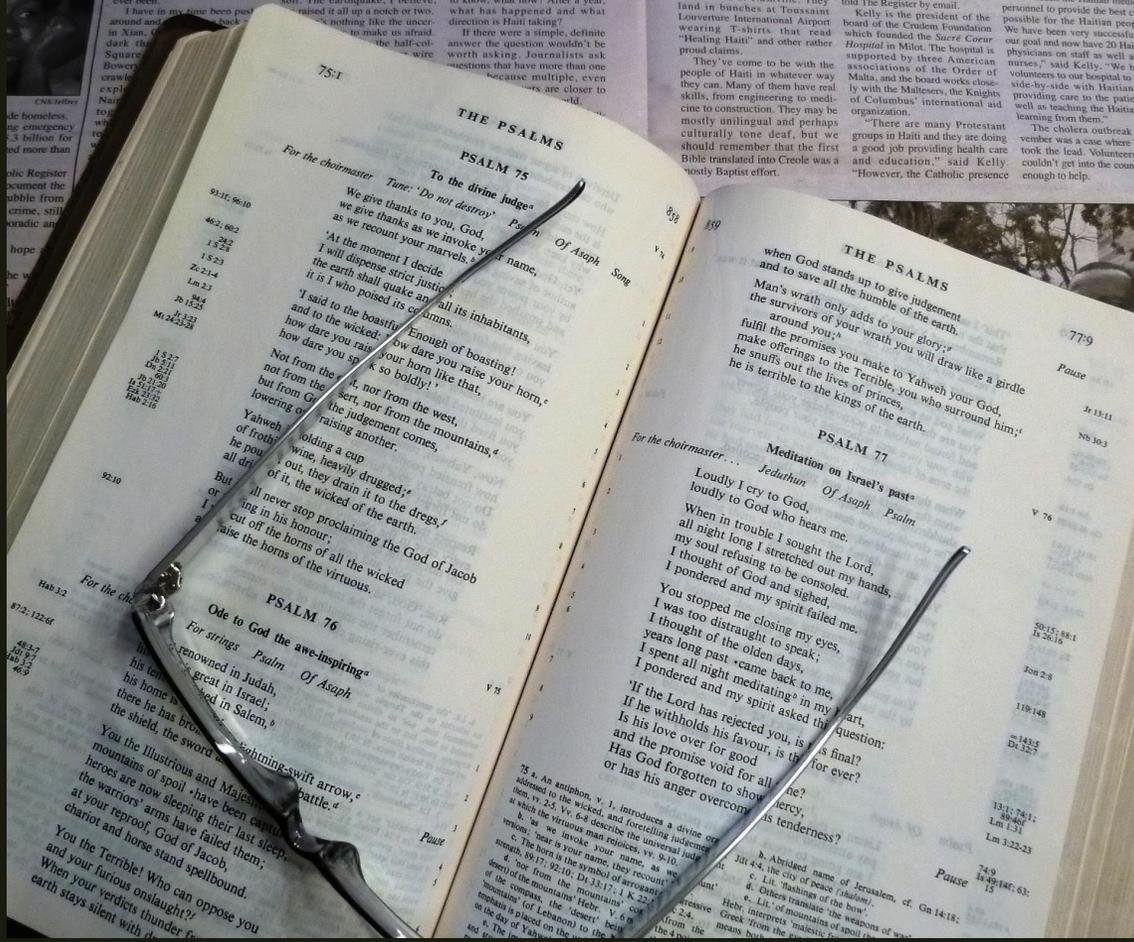
Kelly is the president of the board of the Cadern Foundation which founded the *Sacred Heart Hospital* in Milot. The hospital is supported by three American associations of the Order of Malta, and the board works closely with the Maltesers, the Knights of Columbus' international aid organization.

"There are many Protestant groups in Haiti and they are doing a good job providing health care and education," said Kelly. "However, the Catholic presence in Haiti is much greater but doesn't seem to get the publicity."

Some of that may have to do with a preference for deferring to Haitian leadership and expertise whenever possible.

"Our philosophy has always been to teach the Haitian medical personnel to provide the best care possible for the Haitian people. We have been very successful in our goal and now have 20 Haitian physicians on staff as well as nurses," said Kelly. "We have volunteers to our hospital to work side-by-side with Haitian physicians providing care to the patients as well as teaching the Haitians learning from them."

The cholera outbreak in November was a case where Haitians took the lead. Volunteers couldn't get into the country enough to help.



“Take your Bible and take your newspaper, and read both. But interpret newspapers from your Bible.”
–Karl Barth

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.

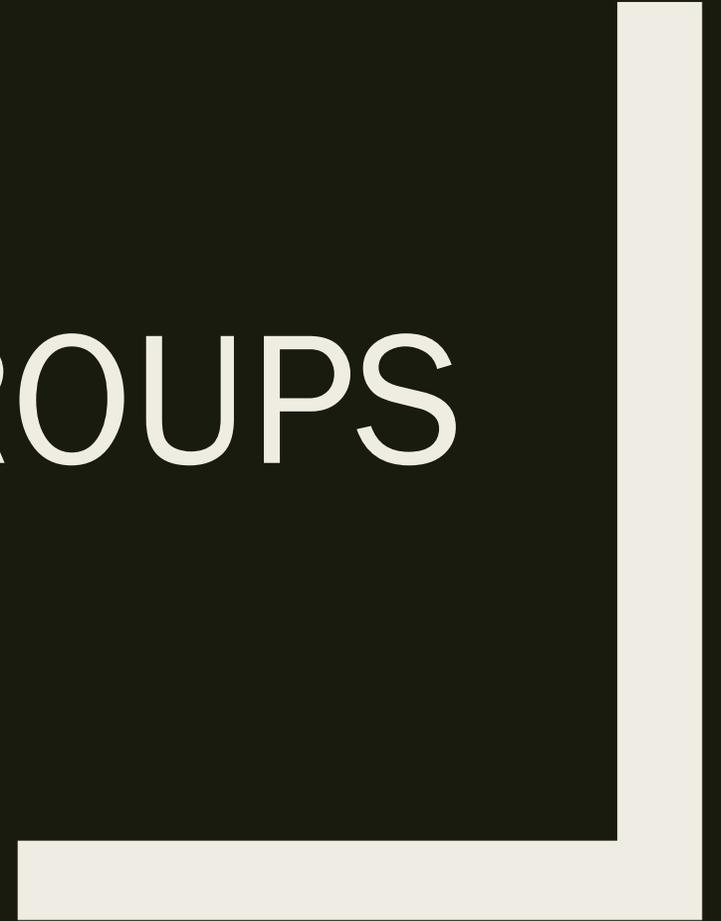
What isn't a sermon?

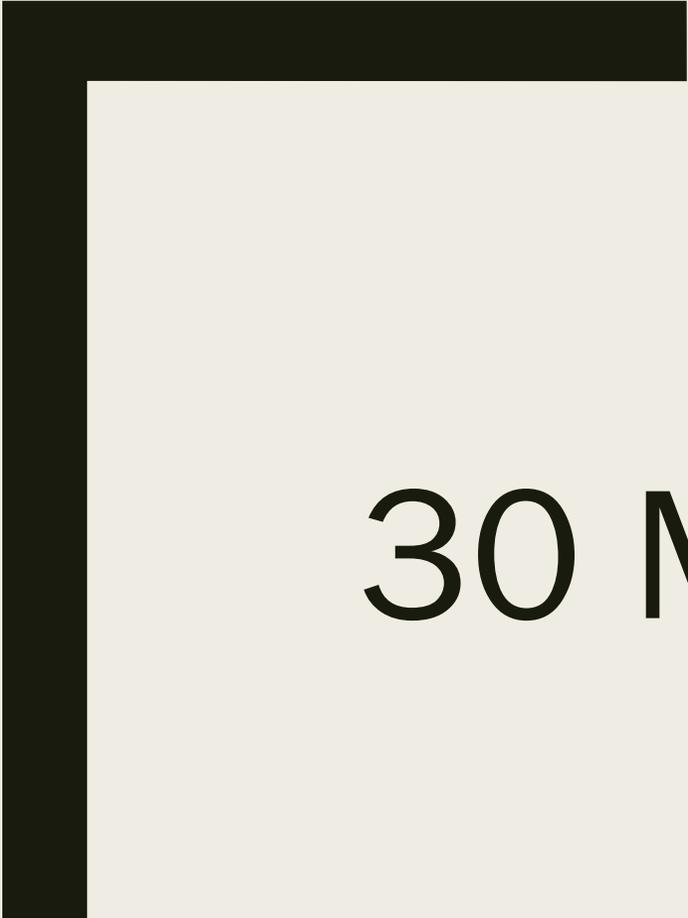
- It isn't a motivational speech.
- It isn't an academic lecture.
- It isn't an opportunity for you to speak on a subject you want to speak on.
- It isn't a time for you to hog the spotlight.

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

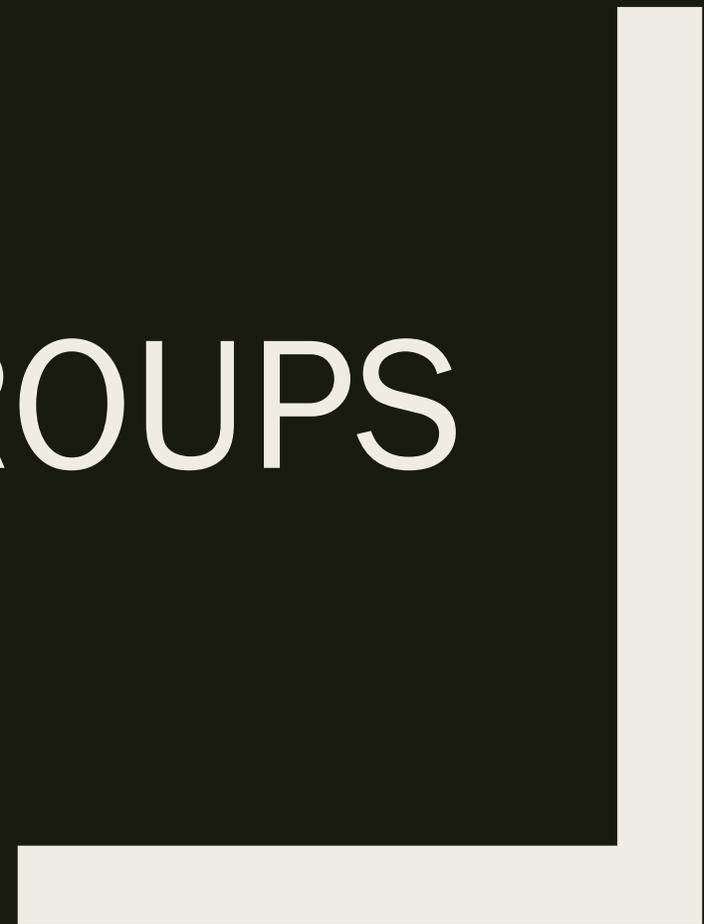
Service (service)

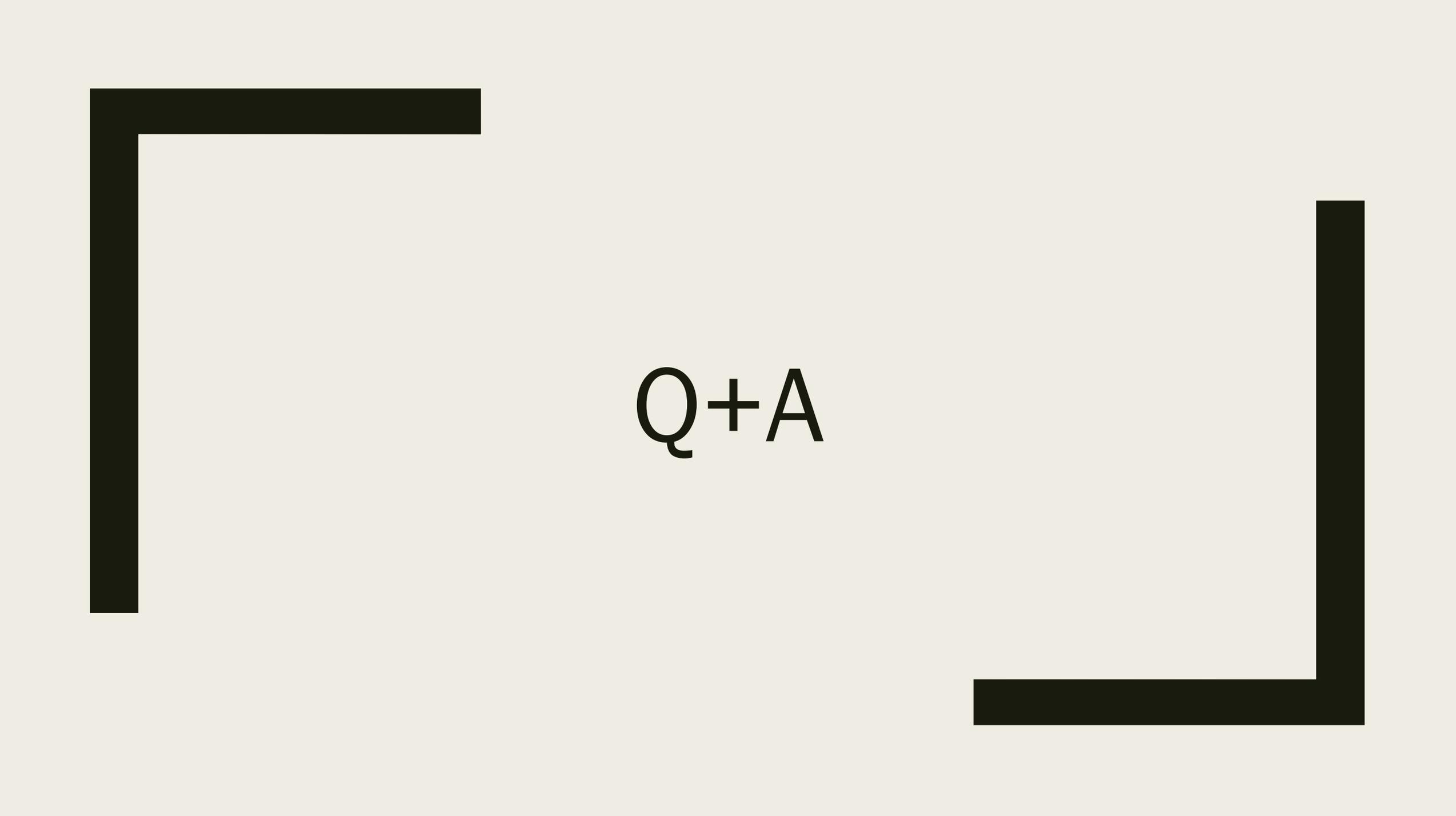
- The night before, pay attention to your hydration.
- Stay calm. God's got you and you've got this.
- Be present with people.
- Smile, be generous, and know that those gathered want the best in and from you.
- Be attentive to the moving of the Spirit.
- Let your passion shine.

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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