

AI PROMPTS FOR CHURCH LEADERS

The Complete Guide & Prompt Collection
Principles, Best Practices & 137+ Ready-to-Use Prompts

PART I: How to Write Effective AI Prompts for Ministry
5 Core Principles • Quality Checklist • Common Mistakes & Fixes • Iterative Improvement
PART II: The Complete Prompt Library (137+ Prompts in 20 Categories)

Compiled from 20+ Leading Sources: Vanco | Tithely | ChurchTrac | ChurchTechToday
Carey Nieuwhof | Ryan Panzer | AI for Churches | Church Prompt Directory & more

February 2026

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PART I

THE ART OF PROMPTING FOR MINISTRY

Before diving into 137+ prompts in Part II, it is essential to establish the right theological and ethical framework for AI in ministry, and then master the principles that make prompts effective. Part I begins with the foundational conviction that AI is an assistant, not a replacement for Spirit-led pastoral work, and then equips you with practical skills to get the most out of this powerful tool.

Chapter 1: Why Prompt Engineering Matters

1.1 First Things First: AI Is an Assistant, Not a Preacher

Before discussing any prompting technique, we must establish a foundational conviction: AI does not preach. AI does not shepherd. AI does not pray over your sermon in the quiet of your study. The sermon is a sacred act in which a pastor, called by God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and shaped by personal relationship with the congregation, delivers God's Word to God's people.

Many respected theologians and ministry leaders have raised important warnings about this:

⚠️ Voices of Caution

"AI is your sermon writing sidekick, not replacement." — ChurchTrac. "AI is powerful, but without the Holy Spirit, it's just noise." — Tithely. "I'm glad we did it, but let's never do it again." — Violet Crown City Church pastor after an AI-generated sermon. "The congregation described it as flat and mechanical, like a well-crafted essay that forgot it was supposed to move hearts." — Vanco report on AI sermon experiment.

Asking AI to "write my sermon" is fundamentally different from asking AI to "help me prepare my sermon." The first outsources a sacred responsibility. The second leverages a tool to steward your time and deepen your preparation. This document is built entirely on the second approach.

1.2 What AI Can and Cannot Do in Ministry

✔️ What AI CAN Do (Assistant Role)	❌ What AI CANNOT Do (Pastor's Role)
Research historical/cultural context of a passage	Hear from the Holy Spirit about what your people need to hear
Generate sermon outline options for YOU to evaluate and reshape	Know the widow in row 3 who just lost her husband last Tuesday
Find cross-references, word studies, and commentary summaries	Discern the spiritual condition of your specific congregation
Suggest illustrations and application ideas as starting points	Weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice
Draft initial structures you will rewrite in your own voice	Speak with the pastoral authority that comes from walking with your flock
Summarize your sermon for blog, social media, or small groups	Pray over every word and invite the Holy Spirit to work through the message
Help with administrative tasks: emails, bulletins, schedules	Make the pastoral judgment calls that require wisdom and spiritual maturity
Generate discussion questions and teaching materials	Replace the personal devotional life that fuels authentic preaching

1.3 The Right Mental Model: AI as Research Assistant

Think of AI the way you would think of a seminary intern or a research assistant. You would never hand a seminary intern your pulpit and say, "Preach for me this Sunday." But you might ask that intern to:

- Pull together background research on the historical context of Corinth
- Find five possible illustrations related to the theme of reconciliation
- Draft a first version of the small group discussion questions
- Summarize what three commentaries say about a difficult passage
- Proofread and format the bulletin for Sunday morning

You would then take that work, evaluate it with your theological training and pastoral wisdom, reshape it with your voice, and deliver it under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This is exactly how AI should function in your ministry workflow.

1.4 Why Prompt Engineering Still Matters

Even within this "assistant" framework, the quality of your instructions to AI dramatically affects the quality of what you receive. A vague request produces vague, unusable material. A well-crafted prompt produces raw material that genuinely accelerates your preparation.

According to a 2025 survey, 91% of church leaders now support AI use, 64% use it for sermon preparation, and 61% use AI weekly or daily. The skill of prompt engineering determines whether AI saves you time or wastes it.

1.5 The Difference a Good Prompt Makes

Problematic Approach

Write a sermon on Romans 8.

Problem: This outsources the sermon itself to AI. The output will be generic, theologically shallow, and disconnected from your congregation. More importantly, it bypasses the pastor's responsibility to wrestle with the text in prayer and study.

Better, But Still Vague

Help me prepare a sermon on Romans 8.

Improvement: The framing is now "help me" rather than "do it for me." But it still lacks the specificity AI needs to give you useful raw material.

Excellent: AI as Preparation Partner

I am preparing a sermon on Romans 8:12-17 (Children of God) for this Sunday.

*This is week 3 of our "Unshakable" series on Romans 8.
Week 1: No Condemnation (vv.1-4). Week 2: Life in Spirit (vv.5-11).*

Help me with the following preparation tasks:

- 1) Provide the historical context of Paul's audience in Rome and how the concept of adoption (hiothesia) would have resonated with them.*
- 2) Do a word study on 'hiothesia' (adoption) in v.15 – Greek meaning, Roman legal background, and theological significance.*
- 3) Suggest 5 illustration ideas connecting 'adoption into God's family' to experiences my congregation (suburban, mix of young families and retirees) would relate to.*
- 4) Generate 4 small group discussion questions progressing from observation to interpretation to application.*

[Constraints] Reformed theology. Grace over legalism. No prosperity gospel. Emphasize the indicative (who we ARE in Christ) before the imperative.

Result: AI provides rich research material, illustration seeds, and discussion frameworks that the pastor then weaves into a sermon shaped by prayer, pastoral knowledge, and the Holy Spirit's guidance. The sermon remains authentically yours.

The Golden Rule of AI in Ministry

Use AI to do the tasks that do NOT require the Holy Spirit (research, formatting, brainstorming, drafting administrative content). Reserve for yourself the tasks that DO require the Spirit: theological discernment, pastoral sensitivity, prayerful application, and authentic delivery. AI prepares the ingredients; you cook the meal.

Chapter 2: The 5 Core Principles of Effective Ministry Prompts

With the foundation established that AI serves as your preparation assistant — not your replacement — we can now focus on how to give that assistant the best possible instructions. Every effective ministry prompt incorporates these five principles. The better you apply them, the more useful the raw material AI provides for you to shape with your pastoral wisdom and the Spirit's guidance.

Principle 1: Role Assignment

When you assign AI a specific role, it adapts its perspective, vocabulary, and depth. This is the single most powerful technique for improving quality.

Three Levels of Role Assignment

Level	Example	When to Use
Level 1: Basic	"You are a pastor."	Quick, informal requests
Level 2: Specialized	"You are a youth pastor with 15 years of Gen Z experience."	Most ministry tasks
Level 3: Multi-dimensional	"You are: Theology: Reformed systematic theology PhD; Experience: 20 years, 1,000-member church; Specialty: Youth discipleship; Strength: Biblical depth + contemporary application."	High-stakes content

Role Assignment Examples by Ministry Area

Ministry Area	Role Assignment Example
Sermon Prep	You are an expository preacher skilled in original-language exegesis, specializing in Pauline epistles. Historical-grammatical method with strength in practical life application.
Small Groups	You are a small group specialist (20 years), skilled at participatory questions and safe sharing environments. You balance psychological insight with biblical principles.
Youth Ministry	You are a youth pastor who deeply understands Gen Z culture. Theologically orthodox (Reformed), using language and illustrations that resonate with teens and young adults.
Counseling	You are a licensed Christian counselor (MA biblical counseling). Client-centered approach grounded in Scripture. Expert at listening, empathy, and helping people find their own insights.
Communications	You are a church communications director with expertise in digital marketing, brand strategy, and social media engagement for faith-based organizations.

Principle 2: Context Setting

Context transforms a generic request into a ministry-specific one. Without it, AI writes for "a church" instead of YOUR church.

Five Critical Context Areas

Context Area	What to Include	Example
Audience	Age, spiritual maturity, background, size	80 young pros ages 22-35; 30% new believers, 50% growing, 20% mature
Church Situation	Denomination, size, location, recent events	500-member Presbyterian church; recently navigated pastoral transition
Series Context	Previous content, overall arc	Week 3 of 6 in 'Unshakable' on Romans 8; last week: life in the Spirit
Seasonal Context	Church calendar, cultural moment	First Sunday of Advent; community experienced local tragedy
Pastoral Goal	What this content should accomplish	Move congregation from anxiety to confident trust in God's sovereignty

✗ Without Context

Help me prepare a sermon for young adults.

✓ With Full Context

*[Role] Youth ministry specialist.
[Audience] 80 young adults (20-35), working professionals + college students. 30% new believers, 50% intermediate, 20% mature. Exhausted from competitive culture, struggling with faith-reality gap.
[Church] Mid-size (500), urban, Reformed/Presbyterian. Rising young adult dropout.
[Series] "Standing on the Gospel Again" – sermon 3 of 4.
Week 1: Identity. Week 2: Calling. This week: Power of the Gospel.
[Goal] Rediscover Gospel power. Monday-morning applications. Small group Qs.
[Text] Philippians 3:7-14*

Principle 3: Specific Requests

Vague requests produce vague outputs. Specificity has five dimensions:

Dimension	Description	Example
Format	Document type	Sermon manuscript, outline, PPT notes, small group guide, social post
Length	Word count or time	3,000-4,000 words (35-45 min); 500 words (5-min devotional)
Structure	Section organization	Intro (5 min) → 3 points (20 min) → Conclusion (5 min) → Discussion Qs
Tone	Formality, emotion	Warm but authoritative; casual and encouraging; scholarly but accessible
Style	Sentence patterns	Short sentences for impact; heavy stories; Socratic questioning

Length Guide for Ministry Content

Content Type	Recommended Length	Duration
Sunday sermon (main)	3,000–4,000 words	35–45 min
Youth sermon	2,000–2,500 words	25–30 min
Small group guide	1,000–1,500 words	15–20 min teaching
Daily devotional	500–700 words	5–7 min reading
Social media post	100–250 words	1–2 min reading
Blog article	800–1,500 words	4–8 min reading
Newsletter article	300–500 words	2–3 min reading

Principle 4: Constraints & Theological Safeguards

AI is trained on the entire internet — including heretical theology and culturally inappropriate material. Theological guardrails are essential.

Type 1: Theological Constraints

ALWAYS INCLUDE:

- Orthodox Trinitarian doctrine
- Authority and sufficiency of Scripture
- Salvation by grace through faith (sola fide)
- Substitutionary atonement and bodily resurrection of Christ
- Personhood and ministry of the Holy Spirit

NEVER INCLUDE:

- Prosperity theology ("believe and get rich")
- Modalist expressions (Father = Son = Spirit as one person)
- Tritheistic expressions (three separate Gods)
- Works-based salvation implications
- Dualistic worldview (spirit=good, physical=evil)
- Political partisanship

Type 2: Pastoral Constraints

- No condemning tone → Emphasize Gospel grace
- Limit "you must" language → "You are empowered to"
- Avoid legalism → Gospel-centered application
- No gender-discriminatory, generational-conflict, or class-biased language

Type 3: Cultural Constraints

- Use culturally appropriate illustrations for your congregation
- Use language accessible to all generations present
- Maintain cultural sensitivity
- Avoid uncritical adoption of any single cultural perspective

Principle 5: Output Format Specification

Same content needs different formats depending on use. A sermon manuscript, PowerPoint outline, and small group guide require different structures.

Format 1: Sermon Manuscript

TITLE: [Gospel-centered, memorable]
TEXT: [Scripture]
KEY SENTENCE: [One-sentence summary]
INTRODUCTION (5 min) - Audience connection - Problem statement - Transition
BODY (20 min)
Point 1: [Title] - Exegesis - Principle - Illustration - Application Q
Point 2: [Title] - Exegesis - Principle - Illustration - Application Q
Point 3: [Title] - Exegesis - Principle - Illustration - Application Q
CONCLUSION (5 min) - Summary - Gospel connection - Call to action
SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS (3-5)

Format 2: PowerPoint Notes

Slide 1: Title slide - Sermon title, Scripture, image suggestion
Slides 2-4: Main Points - One per slide - Key sentence (10-15 words)
- Sub-bullets (3 max)
Slide 5: Application - 3 practical action steps
Slide 6: Conclusion - Core message repeated

Format 3: Small Group Guide

[OPENING ACTIVITY] (5 min) - Icebreaker question
[SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION] (30 min)
Observation Qs (What does the text say?)
Interpretation Qs (What does it mean?)
Application Qs (How does it apply?)
[PRAYER TIME] (10 min)
[LEADER NOTES] - Sensitive topics - Anticipated questions & answers

Chapter 3: Prompt Quality Checklist

Before submitting any prompt, run through this checklist. A prompt that checks all boxes will produce dramatically better results.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

- Role is specifically defined (expertise, experience, strengths)
- Audience info is clear (age, size, spiritual maturity, characteristics)
- Church/ministry context is included (denomination, size, location, current series)
- Desired format is specified (manuscript, outline, PPT, small group guide, etc.)
- Length/duration is stated (word count, page count, or speaking time)
- Theological constraints are included (required doctrines, prohibited content)
- Tone and style are defined (warm, scholarly, casual, prophetic, etc.)

ADVANCED ELEMENTS (high-stakes content)

- Series context provided (previous sermons, upcoming topics, overall arc)
- Pastoral goal stated (what change should this produce in the audience?)
- Structural requirements outlined (number of points, illustration count, Q types)
- Cultural considerations noted (generational language, regional customs, sensitive topics)
- Application specificity requested (not vague but Monday-morning practical steps)

POST-OUTPUT REVIEW

- Theological accuracy verified against Scripture and church doctrinal standards
- Content has been personally reworked in your own pastoral voice (not used as-is)
- Tone matches your pastoral voice (not robotic or generic)
- Illustrations are appropriate and relatable to YOUR congregation
- Application points are specific and actionable (not vague platitudes)
- No harmful, divisive, or Gospel-misrepresenting content
- For sermons: personal prayer, devotion, and Spirit-led reflection have shaped the final message

Chapter 4: Common Mistakes & How to Fix Them

Even experienced users make these errors. Here are the five most common with clear fixes.

Mistake	The Problem	The Fix
Outsourcing sacred work	"Write my sermon" delegates what should be a Spirit-led pastoral act. AI cannot hear from God for your congregation.	Reframe: "Help me research/outline/illustrate for my sermon." Use AI for preparation tasks, not the final message.
Prompt too short	"Help with sermon" = no direction. Generic, shallow, unusable material.	Include at minimum: scripture + audience + specific task + constraints. 5 lines beats 5 words.
No theological guardrails	AI output used as-is. Risk: doctrinal errors, prosperity theology, unbalanced emphasis.	Set theological constraints in prompt AND personally review every output against Scripture.
Missing audience context	"Create a Bible study" with no who. Content pitched at wrong level, wrong tone.	Detail the audience: age, maturity, size, current struggles or questions.
Format unspecified	"Make material" = AI guesses wrong. Essay when you need slides, manuscript when you need bullets.	State exactly: research notes, 3-point outline, PPT notes, small group guide, or social caption.
One-and-done approach	Expecting perfection first try. Leads to frustration and abandoning AI.	Plan 3-4 rounds of refinement (see Chapter 5). AI is a conversation partner, not a vending machine.

The 80/20 Rule of AI Ministry Content

AI does 80% of the preparation heavy lifting (research, structure, first drafts of admin content). You invest 20% of the effort in the parts only YOU can do — and these are the parts that matter most: personal stories, pastoral voice, theological precision, prayerful discernment, and Spirit-led application. The 20% is where the ministry actually happens.

Chapter 5: The Iterative Improvement Strategy

The best results come from structured refinement. Think of it like sculpting: prompt 1 = rough shape, prompts 2-4 = refined details.

The 4-Round Refinement Process

Round 1: Basic Structure

Create a 3-point sermon outline on Colossians 3:22-25 for working professionals ages 30-50. Include introduction, three points with Scripture, and conclusion.

→ Review: Does the structure work? Are the main points strong? Is the direction right?

Round 2: Deepen Specific Sections

Good structure. Now expand Point 1 in detail. Include 3 specific, realistic illustrations of how a 30-40 year old professional could apply this on Monday morning. Make examples specific, not idealistic.

→ Review: Are illustrations genuine? Would your congregation recognize these scenarios?

Round 3: Correct and Adjust

The second illustration is too idealistic. Replace with a realistic ethical dilemma: a boss asking to bend the truth in a report, or pressure to prioritize career over family. Make it feel real and uncomfortable – that's where the Gospel meets people.

→ Review: Does it feel authentic? Would people nod in recognition?

Round 4: Refine Tone and Theology

Too many "you should" / "you must" statements – feels legalistic. Rewrite to lead with Gospel grace: emphasize what Christ has done and who believers ARE in Him, then present obedience as grateful response, not duty. Movement: indicative (what God did) → imperative (our response).

→ Final: Does this sound like YOUR voice? Is the theology sound? Is application specific?

The F.A.S.T.E.R. Framework (Kenny Jahng)

Frame context → Assign role → Specify format → Tell tone → Examples provided → Refine through follow-ups. Source: AI for Church Leaders / ChatGPT for Churches Course.

Chapter 6: Master Prompt Templates

Copy and customize these templates. Fill bracketed sections with your specific information.

Template 1: Sermon Preparation

[ROLE] You are a [theology] preacher with [years] experience in [specialty].

[CONTEXT]

- Audience: [age, maturity, unique traits]
- Church: [size, denomination, location, culture]
- Series: [name, week #, previous topics]
- Goal: [desired congregation change]

[REQUEST]

- Scripture: [passage] | Format: [manuscript/outline/PPT]
- Length: [words or time] | Structure: [specific requirements]

[CONSTRAINTS]

- Theological: [required + prohibited]
- Pastoral: [tone, approach] | Cultural: [considerations]

[OUTPUT FORMAT] [exact format specification]

Template 2: Small Group Material

[ROLE] Small group specialist with [years] experience.

[CONTEXT] Group: [age, composition, intimacy level, duration together]

Meeting: [frequency, setting, time] | Current dynamics: [issues, changes]

[REQUEST] Scripture: [passage] | Duration: [min] | Goal: [session objective]

[FORMAT] Opening activity → Observation/Interpretation/Application Qs

→ Prayer focus → Leader tips & sensitive-topic notes

Template 3: Pastoral Care Resource

[ROLE] [Qualification] Christian counselor with [experience].

[SITUATION] Scenario: [general, no identifying details]

Faith background: [maturity] | Key issue: [concern]

[REQUEST] 1) Relevant Scriptures (5) 2) Pastoral questions to ask

3) Practical resources/next steps 4) Brief prayer

[CONSTRAINTS] Non-judgmental, grace-centered. Include professional referral guidance.

Template 4: Social Media & Communications

[ROLE] Church communications director specializing in [platforms].
[BRAND] Church: [name] | Voice: [warm/witty/scholarly/casual]
Audience: [follower demographics]
[REQUEST] Type: [sermon promo/event/devotional/testimony]
Platform: [Instagram/Facebook/Twitter/all] | Details: [content info]
[FORMAT] Caption + hashtags (5-8) + engagement Q + posting time suggestion

PART II

THE COMPLETE PROMPT LIBRARY

137+ prompts organized into 20 categories. Each is in a shaded box for easy copy-paste. Apply the 5 Principles from Part I to customize for your context.

Category 1: Sermon Preparation & Preaching

64% of church leaders use AI for sermon prep. These prompts cover ideation through repurposing.

Prompt 1: Series from a Book

I want to preach a sermon series on the book of [Hebrews/Isaiah/Colossians]. What are good sermon topics from that book?

Source: ChurchTrac

Prompt 2: Follow-Up Ideas

I just finished a series on [topic]. What is a good follow-up sermon topic?

Source: ChurchTrac

Prompt 3: Topical Ideas

Give me 10 sermon topic ideas on [hope/anxiety/forgiveness] for a congregation of young families, students, and retirees.

Source: Multiple

Prompt 4: Seasonal Series

Create a 4-week series for [Advent/Lent/Easter/New Year]. Include: series title, weekly titles, scriptures, one-sentence summaries.

Source: Church Prompt Directory

Prompt 5: Engaging Sermons

What techniques can pastors create compelling sermons that convey biblical truths and resonate with diverse audiences?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 6: Tradition & Innovation

How can pastors honor faith tradition while embracing fresh perspectives and contemporary applications?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 7: Thematic Outline

Create an outline for a sermon on forgiveness using Matthew 18:21-22 as central scripture.

Source: Sermon Shots

Prompt 8: 3-Point Outline

Create a 3-point outline on [topic] from [Scripture]. Include: intro hook, 3 points (scripture + illustration + application Q), conclusion with CTA.

Source: Church Prompt Directory

Prompt 9: Expository Framework

Expository sermon on [passage]. Break down verse by verse: historical context, Greek/Hebrew key words, theological significance, practical applications.

Source: ChurchTrac

Prompt 10: Narrative Structure

Structure a narrative sermon on [Bible story]. Story arc: setting, conflict, climax, resolution, application. Include transitions and engagement moments.

Source: Multiple

Prompt 11: Illustrative Story

Generate an illustrative story about forgiveness relating to everyday life to engage the congregation.

Source: Sermon Shots

Prompt 12: 10 Illustration Ideas

Preaching on Romans 14:1-12 (hospitality/inclusion). Generate 10 ideas for illustrations or stories.

Source: Ryan Panzer

Prompt 13: Multi-Source Illustrations

Preaching on [Scripture] about [theme]. Provide 5 illustrations: historical event, scientific discovery, everyday scenario, literary reference, cultural trend.

Source: Multiple

Prompt 14: Storytelling Integration

How can pastors use personal experiences and narratives to illustrate spiritual principles and make sermons relatable?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 15: Cross-References

Find 10 cross-references (OT + NT) for [Scripture]. For each: reference, brief summary, connection to primary text.

Source: ChurchTrac

Prompt 16: Word Study

Word study on Greek/Hebrew for [Love/grace/faith] in [Scripture]. Include: original word, transliteration, meanings, other uses, theological insights.

Source: ChurchTrac

Prompt 17: Historical Context

Historical and cultural context for [passage]: author, audience, political/social setting, customs, how context deepens interpretation.

Source: ChurchTrac/Tithely

Prompt 18: Commentary Summary

Summarize scholarly interpretations of [passage]. Agreements, disagreements, common applications.

Source: Multiple

Prompt 19: Title Generator

Preaching on [topic/passage]. Main idea: [summary]. Generate 10 creative titles appealing to regulars and visitors.

Source: ChurchTrac

Prompt 20: Delivery Enhancement

Strategies to improve public speaking, master pacing/pauses, create captivating sermon atmosphere?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 21: Current Events

How can pastors thoughtfully incorporate real-world concerns into sermons for navigating moral challenges?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 22: Discussion Questions

From sermon outline on [topic] from [Scripture], create 8 Qs: 2 observation, 3 interpretation, 3 application.

Source: Pulpit AI

Prompt 23: Sermon-to-Blog

[paste transcript] Create 1,000-word blog: engaging intro, main points, applications, reflection Qs, CTA. Conversational tone.

Source: Vanco

Prompt 24: SEO Summary

Summarize sermon transcript into SEO blog. Keywords: [list]. Include meta description (155 chars) and 5 tags.

Source: ChurchTrac

Prompt 25: YouTube Description

SEO YouTube description for sermon [title] covering [summary] referencing [scriptures]. Opening paragraph, key points, Bible verses, subscribe CTA, 10 tags.

Source: Vanco

Category 2: Bible Study & Teaching

Prompt 26: Contextual Lesson Plan

We are a [denomination] [setting] in [Location]. Create a Bible Study on [Scripture] for [audience]. This is [one-time/weekly/retreat]. Currently exploring [topic].

Source: Ryan Panzer

Prompt 27: Historical Context

How can pastors help congregants understand historical/cultural background of biblical texts?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 28: Hermeneutics

What principles ensure consistent, accurate Scripture interpretation, avoiding pitfalls?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 29: Personal Devotion

How can pastors inspire congregants to develop regular, meaningful Bible study routines?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 30: Small Group Facilitation

Strategies for engaging, discussion-based Bible study groups?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 31: Biblical Languages

How can pastors introduce Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek to enhance Scripture understanding?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 32: Cross-Referencing

How can pastors guide connecting related passages throughout the Bible?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 33: Study Resources

What commentaries and reference materials can pastors recommend?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 34: Lectio Divina

How can pastors introduce Lectio Divina as contemplative Scripture reading?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 35: Challenging Passages

| *How to approach difficult or controversial Bible sections with wisdom?*

Source: Tithely

Prompt 36: Love for Scripture

| *Techniques to inspire genuine passion for Bible study?*

Source: Tithely

Prompt 37: Biblical Framework

| *Act as pastor and Bible scholar. Develop a Biblical framework for navigating [gossip/stewardship/grief/etc.].*

Source: ChurchTechToday

Prompt 38: Sunday School Lesson

| *Sunday School for [age group] on [topic]. Include: icebreaker, Bible reading, 3 teaching points, activity, discussion Qs, memory verse, take-home challenge.*

Source: Church Prompt Directory

Prompt 39: Multi-Week Curriculum

| *6-week curriculum for [audience] on [book/topic]. Each week: title, Scripture, objectives, opening, teaching, Qs, application, homework.*

Source: Multiple

Prompt 40: Children's Lesson

| *From sermon transcript, create children's guide (ages 5-10): simple retelling, fun activity, memory verse with motions, coloring page idea. [paste]*

Source: AI for Church Leaders

Category 3: Social Media & Digital Communications

Prompt 41: Biblical Reflections

Craft social media reflections from biblical passages. Each: 1) Core message (1-2 sentences), 2) Personal insight, 3) Application, 4) Engagement Q, 5) Hashtags + emojis.

Source: Vanco

Prompt 42: Inspirational Quotes

5 inspirational posts on [theme] with Bible quotes, reflections, engagement Qs. Format for [platform].

Source: Vanco

Prompt 43: Sermon Invite (5 types)

Generate 5 posts: Sneak Peek teaser, Behind-Scenes, Testimonial, Countdown, Question/Poll. Need: title, date, pastor, key quote.

Source: Vanco

Prompt 44: Devotional Social Post

Short devotional (<120 words): Scripture, reflection, warm sermon invitation. Need: title, date, verse, tone, church name.

Source: Vanco

Prompt 45: Live Stream Announcement

Announce live streams: warm invitation, dates/times, access info, interactive features, CTA, hashtags.

Source: Vanco

Prompt 46: Volunteer Spotlight

Highlight volunteer opportunities: inspiring quote, role details, benefits, sign-up steps, CTA, hashtags.

Source: Vanco

Prompt 47: Social Media Strategy

How can pastors use social platforms to connect, share content, foster community online?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 48: Liturgical Calendar

Liturgical posts for [denomination] for [month]: dates, background, Scripture, celebration ideas, educational content, interactive Qs.

Source: Vanco

Prompt 49: Community Engagement

Interactive posts: discussion starters, polls, surveys. Topics: [list], Audience: [demo], Goals: [objectives].

Source: Vanco

Prompt 50: 30-Day Calendar

30-day content calendar: Scripture posts (8), sermon promos (4), events (4), volunteer (2), testimonials (2), behind-scenes (4), polls (4), seasonal (2).

Source: Multiple

Category 4: Blog & Website Content

Prompt 51: Sermon Theme Article

[1000 words] on themes from series [title] exploring [description]. Biblical-contemporary connections, takeaways, reflection Qs.

Source: Vanco

Prompt 52: Blog Outliner

Detailed outline: headline, intro hook, 4-5 sections, key points, Scripture refs, conclusion, SEO keywords.

Source: Vanco

Prompt 53: Full Blog Post

Complete post on [topic] for [audience]. [800-1200 words]. Tone: [specify]. Hook, Scripture, application, anecdotes, prayer. SEO: [keywords].

Source: Vanco

Prompt 54: Community News

News blog: event recap, upcoming events, ministry spotlight, prayer requests, volunteer needs. Upbeat tone.

Source: Vanco

Prompt 55: Milestone Celebration

Celebrate milestones: [baptisms, growth, projects, outreach, goals]. Glory to God, thank congregation.

Source: Vanco

Prompt 56: Staff Introduction

Welcome blog for [person]: name, role, background, vision, fun fact, how to connect.

Source: Vanco

Prompt 57: Visitor Page

Visitor page for [church, denomination, location, times]. Welcome, expectations, parking/childcare, FAQs, CTA.

Source: Vanco/ChurchSpring

Prompt 58: About Us

About page: [church, year, location, mission, values]. History, uniqueness, pastoral team, invitation.

Source: ChurchSpring

Prompt 59: SEO Builder

For blog on [topic]: SEO title (<60 chars), meta desc (155 chars), 5 keywords, linking suggestions, alt-text, social snippets.

Source: Vanco

Category 5: Email, Newsletter & Bulletin

Prompt 60: Weekly Newsletter

Newsletter for [church]: pastoral greeting, sermon preview, events, ministry spotlight, prayers, volunteer needs, giving. 400-600 words.

Source: Vanco

Prompt 61: Visitor Welcome Sequence

3 emails: 1) 24hrs: thank, testimony, invite back. 2) 3 days: groups. 3) 1 week: devotional + event. <200 words each.

Source: Church Prompt Directory

Prompt 62: Event Invitation

Email for [event]: subject line, preview text, body, logistics, RSVP CTA.

Source: Multiple

Prompt 63: Digital Bulletin

Sunday bulletin: welcome, order of worship, sermon info, announcements, prayers, schedule, contacts.

Source: Vanco

Prompt 64: Concise Announcements

5 announcements (50-75 words each): what, when, where, how to respond. Friendly, not pushy.

Source: Multiple

Category 6: Church Administration

Prompt 65: Meeting Agenda

[Board/staff] meeting agenda. Duration: [time]. Prayer, minutes, financials, old/new business, reports, prayer. Time blocks.

Source: Church Prompt Directory

Prompt 66: Policy Document

Draft [AI/social media/volunteer/child safety/facility] policy: purpose, guidelines, roles, procedures, consequences, review.

Source: ChurchTechToday

Prompt 67: Annual Report

Annual report narrative: Attendance, Giving, Baptisms, Members, Outreach, Accomplishments, Goals. Celebratory, God-glorifying.

Source: Multiple

Prompt 68: Budget Framework

Budget discussion framework. Annual: \$[amount]. Categories: staff, facilities, missions, programs, ops. Best practices, typical %, key Qs.

Source: Galaxy.ai

Prompt 69: Church Management Software

What tools streamline admin, manage events, organize records?

Source: Tithely

Category 7: Pastoral Care & Counseling

Prompt 70: Crisis Pastoral Care

How can pastors effectively provide emotional and spiritual support during difficult times?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 71: Hospital Prayer

Prayer for [surgery/illness/grief/terminal]. 150-200 words, 1-2 Scriptures, acknowledge difficulty, God's presence, hope.

Source: Church Prompt Directory

Prompt 72: Grief Curriculum

4-week grief support: theme, prayer, Scripture, 300-word teaching, Qs, coping strategy, blessing. Progress: shock→anger→sadness→hope.

Source: Church Prompt Directory

Prompt 73: Pastoral Letter

Letter on [tragedy/issue/transition/disaster]. 400-500 words. Acknowledge, Scripture comfort, unity, church response.

Source: Multiple

Prompt 74: Pre-Marital Questions

Pre-marital counseling by category: Communication, Finances, Family, Spiritual growth, Roles, In-laws. 5 Qs each.

Source: Church Prompt Directory

Prompt 75: Funeral Planning

Plan [funeral/memorial] for [name, description]: 5 Scripture options, 5 hymns, eulogy outline, prayer, order of service.

Source: Multiple

Category 8: Youth & Children's Ministry

Prompt 76: Youth Event Ideas

3 youth group events: spiritual growth + community + fun. Each: name, description, Bible connection, supplies, follow-up guide.

Source: Toolify.ai

Prompt 77: Youth Lesson

Youth Lesson (13-18) on [topic]. Include: icebreaker (5min), video suggestion, teaching (15min), discussion (10min), creative response (10min), challenge.

Source: Magai

Prompt 78: VBS Curriculum

5-day VBS on [theme]. Each day: sub-theme, verse, Bible story, memory verse, craft, game, themed snack, take-home sheet.

Source: Multiple

Prompt 79: Volunteer Training

Children's ministry training: philosophy, age-appropriate teaching, classroom mgmt, safety, leading to Christ, special needs, emergencies.

Source: Lifeway

Category 9: Worship Planning

Prompt 80: Worship Set

Worship set for Sunday. Sermon: [topic] from [Scripture]. Mood: [start]→[end].
4-5 songs (contemporary + hymns) with rationale.

Source: Multiple

Prompt 81: Order of Worship

Complete order for [service type]: prelude, call to worship, prayer, songs,
Scripture, offertory, sermon, response, benediction.

Source: Multiple

Prompt 82: Call to Worship

Responsive call to worship from [Psalm/Scripture]. Leader/congregation format.
Poetic, worshipful, all ages.

Source: Church Prompt Directory

Prompt 83: Communion Meditation

3-min meditation on [Scripture]. Focus on Christ's sacrifice, bread and cup
meaning. Include preparation prayer.

Source: Church Prompt Directory

Category 10: Evangelism & Community Outreach

Prompt 84: Community Relationships

How to encourage congregations to engage communities and form Gospel-sharing connections?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 85: Outreach Programs

Strategies for impactful outreach demonstrating Christ's Love?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 86: Personal Evangelism

How to train congregants to share faith with confidence, sensitivity, authenticity?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 87: Partnerships

How to foster partnerships with other churches and organizations?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 88: Service as Evangelism

How to serve while creating Gospel-sharing openings?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 89: Cross-Cultural

How to share faith across cultural and religious backgrounds?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 90: Seeker Events

Strategies for welcoming those curious about Christianity?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 91: Digital Evangelism

How to use technology and social media for wider Gospel reach?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 92: Evangelism Culture

How to foster a culture of Gospel-sharing within the congregation?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 93: Outreach Event Plan

Plan outreach for [church] targeting [demographic]: concept, logistics, volunteers, promotion, Gospel integration, follow-up.

Source: Multiple

Category 11: Church Planting & Growth

Prompt 94: Groundwork

| *How to assess community needs for a thriving new congregation?*

Source: Tithely

Prompt 95: Vision & Mission

| *Steps to create compelling vision/mission for a church plant?*

Source: Tithely

Prompt 96: Launch Team

| *How to recruit and train a dedicated launch team?*

Source: Tithely

Prompt 97: Partnerships

| *Strategies for connecting with established churches/organizations?*

Source: Tithely

Prompt 98: Worship Design

| *How to create culturally relevant worship for plant context?*

Source: Tithely

Prompt 99: Financial Plan

| *Approaches for solid financial foundation?*

Source: Tithely

Prompt 100: Discipleship

| *How to implement effective discipleship in a new congregation?*

Source: Tithely

Prompt 101: Outreach Culture

| *How to instill evangelism passion from the start?*

Source: Tithely

Prompt 102: Adapting

| *How to evaluate and adjust approach, embracing flexibility?*

Source: Tithely

Prompt 103: Milestones

| *How to celebrate progress and maintain momentum?*

Source: Tithely

Category 12: Leadership Development

Prompt 104: 12-Week Curriculum

12-week leadership development: servant leadership, vision, delegation, conflict, team building, communication, decisions, mentoring, stewardship, EQ, spiritual disciplines, succession. Each: principle, Scripture, case study, exercises, reading.

Source: Multiple

Prompt 105: Staff Devotional

5-min devotional on [teamwork/perseverance/grace/joy]. Scripture, 2-paragraph reflection, prayer. Encouraging for ministry staff.

Source: Church Prompt Directory

Prompt 106: Job Description

Job description for [position] at [church]: summary, 8-10 responsibilities, qualifications, skills, compensation, application. Context: [size, denomination].

Source: Multiple

Category 13: Fundraising & Stewardship

Prompt 107: Online Giving

How to encourage digital contributions for steady ministry resources?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 108: Capital Campaign

4 communications for campaign [name], \$[goal], [purpose]: 1) Launch Letter, 2) FAQ, 3) Progress update, 4) Thank you.

Source: Multiple

Prompt 109: Thank You Letters

3 giving letters: 1) Year-end statement cover, 2) Major gift thanks, 3) First-time giver. Warm, impact-focused, IRS-compliant.

Source: Vanco

Prompt 110: Stewardship Series

3-week stewardship series beyond money. Titles, Scriptures, points, Qs. Focus: generosity, contentment, faithful management.

Source: Multiple

Category 14: Volunteer Management

Prompt 111: Recruitment Email

Volunteer recruitment for [ministry]. Role, time, training, spiritual impact. Inviting, not guilt-inducing. Sign-up CTA.

Source: Church Prompt Directory

Prompt 112: Appreciation Speech

Volunteer banquet speech. [Number] volunteers, [number] ministries. Specific impact, humor, gratitude, Scripture, challenge. 5-7 min.

Source: Multiple

Prompt 113: Onboarding Guide

Onboarding for [church]: welcome, mission/values, covenant, training, contacts, policies, FAQs.

Source: Multiple

Category 15: Discipleship & Small Groups

Prompt 114: Discussion Guide

Small group guide from Sunday's sermon [topic] from [Scripture]: icebreaker, recap, 6-8 Qs (observation→interpretation→application), prayer, challenge.

Source: Pulpit AI

Prompt 115: Discipleship Pathway

Pathway: visitor→mature disciple. 4-5 stages: name, goal, activities, resources, transition criteria.

Source: Lifeway

Prompt 116: Digital Discipleship

Tools for spiritual guidance and learning through online platforms?

Source: Tithely

Prompt 117: New Believer's Guide

4-week study: 1) Salvation, 2) Bible & prayer, 3) Community, 4) Daily faith. Scripture, explanations, Qs, next steps.

Source: Multiple

Category 16: Technology & Digital Ministry

Prompt 118: Live Streaming

| *Best practices for high-quality live-streamed services?*

Source: Tithely

Prompt 119: Virtual Groups

| *How to maintain connection/fellowship in online gatherings?*

Source: Tithely

Prompt 120: Multimedia

| *Techniques to enhance sermons with visual aids and digital resources?*

Source: Tithely

Prompt 121: Podcasting

| *How to create and distribute audio content for wider audiences?*

Source: Tithely

Prompt 122: Prayer Networks

| *How to facilitate digital prayer communities?*

Source: Tithely

Prompt 123: Modern Faith

| *How to help congregations navigate an increasingly secular world?*

Source: Tithely

Prompt 124: Biblical Relevance

| *How to communicate timeless wisdom resonating with modern challenges?*

Source: Tithely

Prompt 125: Tech in Church

| *How to embrace digital tools while maintaining personal connections?*

Source: Tithely

Category 17: Mission & Vision Statements

Prompt 126: Mission Statement Bot

Act as Mission Statement Guide. Ask: unique calling, differentiation, who we serve, desired impact. Supportive tone. Generate options.

Source: Vanco

Prompt 127: Vision Statement

Vision statement. Current: [state]. Dream: [aspirations]. Needs: [community]. Strengths: [List]. 3 options: <20 words, inspiring, future-oriented.

Source: Multiple

Category 18: Daily Devotionals & Prayer

Prompt 128: 7-Day Devotional

7-day devotional on [theme]. Each: title, Scripture, 200-word reflection, prayer (50-75 words), daily challenge.

Source: Vanco

Prompt 129: Prayer Guide

Prayer guide for [event]. 5 daily focuses, Scripture for each, specific prayer points. All maturity levels.

Source: Church Prompt Directory

Prompt 130: Family Devotional

4-week [season] family devotional. Each week: theme, daily Scripture, family Q, simple activity, prayer. Ages 5-12.

Source: Multiple

Category 19: AI Bot System Prompt Templates

Complete system prompts to create specialized ministry bots. Copy the entire prompt.

Prompt 131: Inspirational Message Bot

You are a Church Inspirational Message Bot. Generate scripture-based social content. Ask: 1) Theme, 2) Format (quote/prayer/verse image), 3) Platform, 4) Frequency, 5) Branding. Output with Scripture, hashtags, platform formatting.

Source: Vanco

Prompt 132: Event Promotion Bot

You are a Church Event Promotion Bot. Given event details, generate: 1) Announcement with headline + CTA, 2) Follow-ups with details, 3) Reminders, 4) Post-event thanks. Platform-optimized.

Source: Vanco

Prompt 133: Sermon-to-Blog Bot

You are a Sermon Blog Bot. Given transcript/title/preacher/date/scripture/theme, output 1,000-word blog: Intro (150-200w), Summary (300-350w), Applications (300-350w), Conclusion (150-200w), Engagement Q.

Source: Vanco

Prompt 134: Community Bot

You are a Community Interaction Bot. Generate: discussion starters with Scripture, polls/surveys, interactive challenges. Adapt based on engagement patterns.

Source: Vanco

Prompt 135: Liturgical Calendar Bot

You are a Liturgical Calendar Bot. Given denomination/period/focus, output: dates, background, Scripture, celebrations, education, interactive Qs. Platform-optimized.

Source: Vanco

Prompt 136: YouTube Description Bot

You are a YouTube Description Generator. Given script/title/series/CTAs, output: SEO description + relevant tags for discoverability.

Source: Vanco

Prompt 137: Social Media Mega Bot

You are a comprehensive Church Social Media Builder combining: inspirational content, event promotion, liturgical awareness, community engagement. Ask for church details, voice, needs.

Source: Vanco

Category 20: Appendix — Resource Directory

Books

- AI Prompts for Church Leaders — Katie Allred & David Thorne (2025)
- AI and the Church — Jason Moore (2024)
- ChatGPT Sermon: AI Prompts — Pastor's Friend (2023)
- Church Leader's Guide to AI — Christopher Benek (2024)
- AI for Small Churches — Charlie Miller (2025)
- AI Goes to Church — Todd Korpi (2025)
- AI for Pastors — Dr. Stephen Akintayo (2024)
- The Pastor's Guide to AI — Kevin Crawley (2023)

Free Prompt Libraries

- Church Prompt Directory — churchprompt.directory
- Vanco 50+ Prompts — vancopayments.com
- Tithely 50 Prompts — get.tithe.ly
- ChurchTrac 11 Prompts — churchtrac.com
- Magai Youth Ministry — magai.co
- Ryan Panzer — ryanpanzer.com
- Sermon Shots — sermonshots.com

Courses

- ChatGPT for Churches (\$27) — chatgptforchurches.com
- AI for Church Leaders — aiforchurchleaders.com
- Carey Nieuwhof AI Workshop — careynieuwhof.com
- UMC AI Masterclass — umcdiscipleship.org
- Luther Seminary Faith+Lead — faithlead.org

AI Tools

- SermonSpark (free) — sermonspark.ai
- Pulpit AI — pulpitai.com
- Pastors.ai (free) — pastors.ai
- MinistryAI — ministryai.ai
- ChurchSocial.ai — churchsocial.ai
- Gloop Faith Assistant — gloop.com
- Church.tech — church.tech

Podcasts

- AI for Churches Podcast — Bart Blair & David Thorne
- Church Tech Today — Kenny Jahng
- Exponential NEXT — AI for Churches
- Carey Nieuwhof Leadership Podcast

PART III

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY & UBF MINISTRY PROMPTS

Part III provides specialized prompts for two distinct purposes: (1) Inductive Bible Study, the foundational method of Observation-Interpretation-Application used across many ministries, and (2) prompts tailored specifically for University Bible Fellowship (UBF) ministry contexts, including 1:1 Bible study, testimony writing, messenger preparation, campus evangelism, and conference planning.

Chapter A: Inductive Bible Study Prompts

Inductive Bible Study (IBS) is a method that lets Scripture speak for itself. Rather than starting with a theological conclusion and finding verses to support it, IBS moves from careful observation of the text to interpretation of meaning to personal application. The three stages — Observation, Interpretation, and Application (O-I-A) — form the backbone of deep, text-centered Bible study.

The following prompts are designed to help Bible study leaders prepare rich inductive questions and materials. Remember: AI helps you prepare the questions, but the Holy Spirit guides the actual study and discussion.

A.1 Observation: What Does the Text Say?

Observation is the foundation. It asks: What is actually written here? Who, what, when, where, how? The goal is to see the text clearly before rushing to interpret it.

Prompt O-1: Comprehensive Observation Questions

I am preparing an inductive Bible study on [Scripture passage, e.g., John 4:1-26]. Generate 10 observation questions that help the group notice key details in the text. Questions should focus on: Who are the characters and what do we know about them? What actions take place and in what order? What words or phrases are repeated or emphasized? What contrasts or comparisons appear? What is surprising or unexpected in the text? Keep questions text-focused – answerable directly from the passage, not requiring outside knowledge.

Source: Inductive Bible Study Method

Prompt O-2: Structural Analysis

Analyze the literary structure of [Scripture passage]. Identify: 1) How the passage can be divided into natural sections or paragraphs, 2) Key transitional words or phrases (therefore, but, because, etc.), 3) Any chiasmic or parallel structures, 4) The narrative flow or logical progression, 5) Repeated words, themes, or motifs. Present this as a structural outline I can share with my Bible study group.

Source: Inductive Bible Study Method

Prompt O-3: Character Observation

For [Scripture passage], create observation questions focused specifically on the characters: What does the text tell us about each person's identity, role, and social position? What do they say, and how do they say it? What actions do they take? How do they respond to each other? What emotions or attitudes can be inferred from the text? Generate 6-8 questions that help the group build a detailed picture of each character from the text alone.

Source: Inductive Bible Study Method

Prompt O-4: Key Word Mapping

Identify the key words and phrases in [Scripture passage]. For each key word: 1) How many times does it appear in this passage? 2) What related words appear? 3) Does the meaning shift or deepen as the passage progresses? 4) Create 3-4 observation questions that help a study group trace these key words through the text.

Source: Inductive Bible Study Method

Prompt O-5: Context Observation

Help me develop observation questions about the context of [Scripture passage]: What comes immediately before this passage? What comes after? How does this passage fit within the larger chapter and book? Are there any connecting words (therefore, then, after this) that link this passage to what precedes it? Generate 5 questions that help the group see this passage within its larger textual context.

Source: Inductive Bible Study Method

A.2 Interpretation: What Does the Text Mean?

Interpretation builds on observation. It asks: What did the author intend to communicate? What would the original audience have understood? The goal is to discover the meaning of the text in its original context before applying it to our lives.

Prompt I-1: Interpretive Questions

Based on [Scripture passage], generate 8-10 interpretation questions that move beyond observation to meaning. Questions should explore: Why did the author include this detail? What theological truth is being communicated? How would the original audience have understood this? What does this reveal about God's character, human nature, or the relationship between God and people? What is the main point or central message of this passage? Keep questions grounded in the text, not speculative.

Source: Inductive Bible Study Method

Prompt I-2: Historical-Cultural Background

Provide the historical and cultural background needed to interpret [Scripture passage] accurately. Include: 1) The social, political, and religious context of the original audience, 2) Cultural practices or customs referenced or assumed in the text, 3) Any Old Testament allusions or intertextual connections, 4) Key Greek/Hebrew words whose original meaning illuminates the passage, 5) Common misunderstandings of this passage and how historical context corrects them. Format this as a leader's reference guide I can consult during our study discussion.

Source: Inductive Bible Study Method

Prompt I-3: Theological Theme Analysis

Identify the major theological themes in [Scripture passage]. For each theme: 1) Where does it appear in this passage? 2) How does it connect to the broader theology of [this book of the Bible]? 3) How does it fit within the whole biblical narrative (creation-fall-redemption-restoration)? 4) Create 2-3 interpretation questions that help a study group discover this theme through discussion rather than lecture.

Source: Inductive Bible Study Method

Prompt I-4: Comparative Passage Study

For [Scripture passage], identify 3-5 parallel or related passages elsewhere in the Bible that illuminate its meaning. For each parallel: 1) What is the connection? 2) What new light does the comparison shed? 3) Create a cross-reference question that helps the study group discover the connection themselves (e.g., 'Read [parallel passage]. What similarities and differences do you notice? How does this deepen our understanding of [key concept]?').

Source: Inductive Bible Study Method

Prompt I-5: Author's Purpose and Argument

Analyze the author's purpose and flow of argument in [Scripture passage]. 1) What problem, question, or situation is the author addressing? 2) What is the author's main point or thesis? 3) How does the author build the argument step by step? 4) What evidence or examples does the author use? 5) What conclusion does the author

draw? Generate 5 interpretive questions that help a group trace the author's Logic without the leader having to explain it.

Source: Inductive Bible Study Method

A.3 Application: How Does It Apply to My Life?

Application is where the text becomes personal. It asks: What does this passage call me to believe, to do, or to become? Good application flows naturally from faithful observation and interpretation — it is never arbitrary or disconnected from the text's meaning.

Prompt A-1: Personal Application Questions

Based on [Scripture passage] and its main teaching about [theme], create 6-8 application questions that help people connect this text to their actual daily lives. Questions should: 1) Move from general to specific (not vague platitudes), 2) Address different life contexts (workplace, family, campus, relationships, inner life), 3) Include at least one question about belief/identity (who does God say I am?), 4) Include at least one question about action (what specific step can I take this week?), 5) Be honest about the difficulty of application – acknowledge real obstacles. Avoid moralistic 'try harder' questions. Ground application in the Gospel.

Source: Inductive Bible Study Method

Prompt A-2: Gospel-Centered Application

For [Scripture passage], help me create application questions that follow the Gospel pattern: 1) What does this passage reveal about our NEED (human sin, weakness, or struggle)? 2) What does this passage reveal about God's PROVISION (grace, Christ's work, the Spirit's power)? 3) How does believing this Gospel truth TRANSFORM how we live? 4) What is one specific way I can RESPOND this week – not from guilt, but from gratitude? Create 4-6 questions following this need→provision→transformation→response pattern.

Source: Inductive Bible Study Method

Prompt A-3: Life Situation Application

Based on the teaching of [Scripture passage] about [theme], create application scenarios for different life contexts: 1) A college student facing [relevant situation], 2) A working professional dealing with [relevant situation], 3) A parent navigating [relevant situation], 4) Someone going through [suffering/transition/doubt]. For each scenario, write a question that helps the person connect the passage's truth to their specific reality. Make scenarios realistic, not idealized.

Source: Inductive Bible Study Method

Prompt A-4: Prayer Response Application

Based on [Scripture passage], create a guided prayer response that helps people turn the text into personal prayer. Include: 1) A prayer of ADORATION responding to what the passage reveals about God, 2) A prayer of CONFESSION responding to where the passage exposes our failure, 3) A prayer of THANKSGIVING for God's grace shown in this passage, 4) A prayer of SUPPLICATION asking God to work this truth into our lives. Write each section as a brief prompt (1-2 sentences) that individuals can expand in their own words.

Source: Inductive Bible Study Method

A.4 Complete Inductive Study Builder

Prompt IBS-Master: Full Inductive Bible Study

I am preparing an inductive Bible study on [Scripture passage] for [audience: e.g., college students / young professionals / mixed-age small group]. Our group meets [weekly / biweekly] and members have [beginner / intermediate / advanced] familiarity with Bible study methods.

Create a complete inductive study guide with the following structure:

OPENING (5 min): An icebreaker question connecting daily life to the passage's theme

OBSERVATION (15 min): 6-8 questions helping the group carefully read the text

- Who, what, when, where, how questions*
- Key words, repeated themes, contrasts, surprises*
- Structural flow of the passage*

INTERPRETATION (15 min): 5-6 questions exploring meaning

- What did the author mean? What would the original audience understand?*
- Key theological truths and how they connect to the broader biblical narrative*
- Any historical/cultural background needed (provide brief leader notes)*

APPLICATION (10 min): 4-5 questions connecting to real life

- Gospel-centered (grace-based, not moralistic)*
- Specific to the audience's life context*
- Include both belief/identity and action/response questions*

PRAYER (5 min): A suggested prayer focus drawn from the passage

LEADER NOTES: Brief background info, anticipated difficult questions, sensitive topic warnings, and tips for guiding discussion.

[Constraints] Evangelical theology. Let the text speak – do not impose meaning. Questions should guide discovery, not lecture.

Source: *Inductive Bible Study Method — Master Template*

Chapter B: UBF (University Bible Fellowship) Ministry Prompts

University Bible Fellowship has a distinctive ministry culture built on one-to-one Bible study, personal testimony writing, messenger preparation, campus evangelism, and international mission. The following prompts are designed specifically for UBF's unique ministry structures and traditions.

These prompts assume familiarity with UBF terminology: shepherd (Bible study leader/mentor), sheep (Bible study student/mentee), testimony/reflection (personal written response to Scripture), messenger (the person delivering the Sunday worship message), Daily Bread (daily devotional practice), and common life/house church (communal living for discipleship).

B.1 One-to-One (1:1) Bible Study

The 1:1 Bible study is the heart of UBF ministry — a shepherd and sheep studying Scripture together using the inductive method. These prompts help shepherds prepare thorough, engaging study materials.

Prompt UBF-1: 1:1 Bible Study Questionnaire

I am preparing a 1:1 Bible study on [Scripture passage, e.g., Genesis 12:1-9] for a [new sheep who is a college freshman with no church background / sheep who has been studying the Bible for 2 years / mature sheep preparing to become a shepherd].

Create an inductive Bible study questionnaire with:

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (5-7):

- Questions that help the sheep read the passage carefully*
- Focus on who, what, when, where, how*
- Include questions about key characters, actions, and dialogue*

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (4-5):

- Questions exploring what God is teaching through this passage*
- Historical/cultural context that illuminates meaning*
- How this passage connects to God's redemptive plan*

APPLICATION QUESTIONS (3-4):

- Personal reflection questions connecting the text to the sheep's life*
- At least one question about personal faith response*
- A question that challenges specific life change (campus, studies, relationships, career, spiritual growth)*

KEY VERSE: Suggest which verse(s) would be best as a key verse for memorization and why.

SHEPHERD NOTES: Background information, potential discussion tangents to manage, and prayer topics to close the study with.

[Constraints] Questions should guide discovery, not lecture. Adapt difficulty to the sheep's spiritual maturity level. Gospel-centered.

Source: UBF Ministry Method

Prompt UBF-2: Adaptive 1:1 Questions by Maturity Level

I am studying [Scripture passage] with different sheep at different maturity levels. Create three versions of the same study: VERSION A (New sheep / seeker): Simpler language, more observation questions, basic theological concepts, focus on God's love and invitation. VERSION B (Growing sheep / 1-2 years): Deeper interpretation, connections to other Scripture, more challenging application. VERSION C (Mature sheep / shepherd-in-training): Advanced theological themes, original language insights, leadership application, how to teach this passage to others.

Source: UBF Ministry Method

Prompt UBF-3: Genesis Study Series Questionnaire

Create a 1:1 Bible study questionnaire for [Genesis chapter, e.g., Genesis 22:1-19, Abraham's test]. This is part of our Genesis study series. Include: 1) Context review (brief connection to previous chapter's study), 2) Observation questions (6-8) covering the narrative details, 3) Interpretation questions (4-5) focusing on: God's character revealed, the meaning of faith/obedience, and typological connections to Christ, 4) Application questions (3-4) for a college student's life of faith, 5) Key verse recommendation with explanation, 6) Suggested title for the study. Follow UBF inductive study format.

Source: UBF Ministry Method

Prompt UBF-4: Gospel Study Questionnaire

Create a 1:1 Bible study questionnaire for [Gospel passage, e.g., Mark 2:1-12]. Include: 1) Observation questions about the setting, characters, dialogue, and Jesus' actions (6-8 Qs), 2) Interpretation questions about Jesus' identity, authority, and teaching revealed in this passage (4-5 Qs), 3) A question exploring how this passage reveals both Jesus' divine nature and his compassion for people, 4) Application questions helping a college student respond personally to Jesus as revealed in this passage (3-4 Qs), 5) Key verse and study title suggestion.

Source: UBF Ministry Method

B.2 Testimony (Sogamun) Writing

In UBF, writing a personal testimony (sogamun/소감문) based on the weekly passage is a core spiritual discipline. The testimony connects the Word of God to the writer's personal life, confession, and prayer. These prompts help members learn to write more authentic, Scripture-grounded testimonies.

Prompt UBF-5: Testimony Writing Guide

I am helping a [new believer / young sheep / Bible study group member] learn how to write a personal testimony (sogamun) based on [Scripture passage]. Create a step-by-step guide that explains: 1) How to identify the key verse and central message of the passage, 2) How to write a personal reflection that honestly connects the Scripture to their real life situation, 3) The difference between a good testimony (personal, honest, specific, Scripture-centered) and a weak testimony (generic, abstract, copied from others, disconnected from personal experience), 4) A template structure: [Key verse] → [What I learned about God from this passage] → [How this speaks to my current life/struggle/joy] → [My prayer response and decision of faith], 5) Three example opening sentences they could adapt.

Source: UBF Testimony Tradition

Prompt UBF-6: Testimony Feedback Helper

I am a shepherd reviewing my sheep's testimony on [Scripture passage]. The sheep wrote: [paste testimony summary or key points]. Help me prepare encouraging and constructive feedback: 1) What is strong in this testimony? (affirm specific points), 2) Where could the Scripture connection be deeper? (suggest specific questions to ask), 3) Where could the personal application be more honest and specific? 4) Suggest 2-3 guiding questions I can ask to help them deepen their reflection without rewriting it for them. [Constraint] Feedback should be pastoral and encouraging, never critical of the person's faith level.

Source: UBF Shepherding Method

Prompt UBF-7: Conference Testimony Preparation

I am helping someone prepare a personal testimony to share at a [Summer/Winter] Bible Conference. The conference theme is [theme, e.g., 'By Faith' from Hebrews 11]. Their assigned passage is [Scripture]. Help them structure a conference testimony (5-7 minutes when shared aloud) with: 1) Opening: A specific life situation or struggle that connects to the passage, 2) Scripture exposition: What they learned from the passage (key verse focus), 3) Personal confession and repentance: Honest reflection on where they fell short, 4) Grace and Gospel: How God's grace in this passage meets their need, 5) Decision of faith and prayer topic: A specific, actionable faith response. Include tips for making it personal rather than academic, and for sharing it effectively in front of a group.

Source: UBF Conference Tradition

B.3 Messenger (Message) Preparation

In UBF, the person delivering the Sunday worship message is called the 'messenger.' Messenger preparation is a deeply personal spiritual process that involves studying the passage, writing a manuscript that weaves exegesis with personal testimony, and delivering it as both teaching and personal witness.

Prompt UBF-8: Messenger Study Preparation

I have been assigned as messenger for this Sunday. The passage is [Scripture]. The passage is part of our [book] study series. Last week's message covered [previous passage and theme].

Help me PREPARE (not write) my message by providing:

- 1) PASSAGE ANALYSIS:*
 - Structural outline of the passage*
 - Key words and their original language significance*
 - Historical and cultural context essential for understanding*
 - The central theme and how it connects to the book's overall message*
- 2) CROSS-REFERENCES: 5 important cross-references with brief explanations*
- 3) KEY VERSE OPTIONS: 2-3 candidates for the key verse with rationale*
- 4) TITLE SUGGESTIONS: 5 message title options that capture the central theme*
- 5) APPLICATION ANGLES: How this passage speaks to the life of [college students / young professionals / families / our whole congregation]*
- 6) DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: 4 questions for fellowship groups to discuss after*

[Note: I will write the message manuscript myself through prayer and personal reflection. This research helps me prepare, not replace, that process.]

Source: UBF Messenger Tradition

Prompt UBF-9: Message Outline Review

I have drafted an outline for my Sunday message on [Scripture passage]. My outline is: [paste outline]. Please help me evaluate: 1) Does the outline faithfully represent what the text actually says (exegetical accuracy)? 2) Is there a clear central theme that ties the points together? 3) Are the applications specific and Gospel-centered, or vague and moralistic? 4) Where could I add a personal testimony element to make the message more authentic? 5) Suggest one area where the outline could be strengthened. [Constraint] Do not rewrite the outline for me. Give me feedback and questions to help me improve it myself.

Source: UBF Messenger Tradition

B.4 Campus Evangelism & Bible Study Invitation

UBF's mission is rooted in campus ministry — reaching college and university students with the Gospel through personal invitation to Bible study.

Prompt UBF-10: Bible Study Invitation Approach

I am a UBF missionary/shepherd trying to invite college students to 1:1 Bible study on [campus name]. Help me prepare: 1) A natural, non-pushy 30-second introduction of who I am and what our Bible study is about, 2) Three conversation-starter questions that can lead naturally to a Bible study invitation, 3) Brief responses to common objections: 'I'm not religious,' 'I don't have time,' 'I had a bad church experience,' 'I'm a different religion,' 4) A simple description of what a 1:1 Bible study actually looks like (so students know what to expect), 5) A follow-up message template for after an initial meeting. [Tone] Warm, respectful, genuinely interested in the student as a person. Never manipulative or high-pressure.

Source: UBF Campus Ministry

Prompt UBF-11: Fishing (Campus Outreach) Strategy

Help our UBF chapter plan a campus outreach strategy for [semester: Fall/Spring] at [university name]. Consider: 1) Best times and locations on campus to meet students, 2) Creative outreach event ideas that are welcoming to non-Christians (welcome dinner, cultural event, study help, sports), 3) How to follow up with students who show initial interest, 4) A 4-week 'first contact to first Bible study' pathway, 5) How to pray specifically for campus evangelism. [Context] Our chapter has [number] shepherds/missionaries. The campus has [size/characteristics].

Source: UBF Campus Ministry

Prompt UBF-12: Welcome Event Planning

Plan a semester-opening welcome event for our UBF chapter at [university]. The event should: 1) Be genuinely welcoming to students of all backgrounds (including non-Christians and international students), 2) Include food, fellowship, and a brief introduction to our community, 3) Naturally share what we do (Bible study, fellowship, campus community) without being preachy, 4) Include a way to collect contact info from interested students, 5) Set the stage for follow-up Bible study invitations. Provide: event concept, timeline, script for the brief introduction, logistics checklist, and follow-up plan.

Source: UBF Campus Ministry

B.5 Daily Bread & Devotional Life

Daily Bread is UBF's tradition of daily personal Bible devotion — reading a passage, meditating on it, and writing a brief reflection and prayer each day.

Prompt UBF-13: Daily Bread Writing Guide

Create a Daily Bread devotional template and guide for [Scripture passage, e.g., today's passage is Psalm 23]. Include: 1) A suggested format: [Date / Passage / Key Verse / Observation: What does the text say? / Reflection: What does it mean to me today? / Prayer: My response to God], 2) Three example observation questions for today's passage to help focus the reading, 3) A brief reflection prompt connecting the passage to daily life, 4) A one-sentence prayer starter based on the key verse. Keep it concise – Daily Bread should take 15-20 minutes, not an hour.

Source: UBF Daily Bread Tradition

Prompt UBF-14: Weekly Daily Bread Plan

Create a one-week Daily Bread reading plan for [book of the Bible, e.g., Philippians]. Divide the book into 5-7 daily portions (Mon-Fri or Mon-Sat). For each day provide: 1) The passage (manageable length for 15-20 min devotion), 2) A suggested key verse, 3) A one-line theme to focus the reading, 4) One reflection question. The plan should cover the entire book by week's end and help the reader see the book's overall message and flow.

Source: UBF Daily Bread Tradition

B.6 Summer/Winter Bible Conference

UBF's Summer and Winter Bible Conferences are major gatherings for studying God's Word together, sharing testimonies, and renewing commitment to campus mission and world mission.

Prompt UBF-15: Conference Theme & Structure

Help us plan our [Summer/Winter] Bible Conference. We are considering studying [book of the Bible / theme, e.g., 'Life of Moses' from Exodus, or 'By Faith' from Hebrews 11]. The conference runs [2-3 days] with [number] expected attendees from [number] chapters. Suggest: 1) A conference theme/title that captures the book's central message, 2) How to divide the book into [4-6] message passages, 3) A suggested title and key verse for each message, 4) Which passages would work best for group Bible study sessions, 5) A suggested conference schedule framework (messages, group Bible study, testimony sharing, fellowship, prayer meetings). [Note] Messages will be prepared by individual messengers through personal study and prayer.

Source: UBF Conference Tradition

Prompt UBF-16: Group Bible Study for Conference

Create a group Bible study guide for our conference session on [Scripture passage]. This study will be led by group leaders with groups of 6-8 people of mixed spiritual maturity. Format: 1) Opening question (1 min): A life-experience question connecting to the theme, 2) Reading the passage aloud together, 3) Observation round (10 min): 5-6 questions everyone can answer from the text, 4) Interpretation round (10 min): 4-5 deeper questions about meaning, 5) Sharing round (10 min): 2-3 personal application/testimony questions where members share how this passage speaks to their life, 6) Prayer time: Suggested prayer focus. Keep the study to 40-45 minutes total. Questions should promote sharing, not lecturing.

Source: UBF Conference Tradition

B.7 Shepherding & Discipleship

Prompt UBF-17: New Sheep Nurturing Plan

A new sheep [college student, year, background] has just started 1:1 Bible study with me. They are [a complete beginner / grew up in church but never studied the Bible deeply / from a non-Christian religious background / an international student]. Help me create a first-semester shepherding plan: 1) Which book of the Bible to start with and why, 2) A week-by-week study plan for the first 10 weeks (passage, focus, and what to pray for), 3) Milestones to look for (first testimony, first prayer, first fellowship attendance), 4) Practical care ideas beyond Bible study (meals, helping with campus life, being a friend), 5) Common challenges at this stage and how to navigate them. [Constraint] Shepherding is relationship, not program. The plan should be flexible and person-centered.

Source: UBF Shepherding Method

Prompt UBF-18: Shepherd Training Guide

Create a training guide for a mature sheep who is becoming a shepherd for the first time. They will begin leading their own 1:1 Bible study. Cover: 1) How to prepare a 1:1 Bible study questionnaire (the O-I-A method), 2) How to lead a study conversationally (asking questions, not lecturing), 3) How to listen well and respond to unexpected questions or life situations, 4) How to encourage testimony writing without being legalistic, 5) How to pray for and with their sheep, 6) Common first-time shepherd mistakes and how to avoid them, 7) The spiritual life of a shepherd: why your own Daily Bread and prayer life matters more than your teaching technique.

Source: UBF Shepherding Method

Prompt UBF-19: House Church / Common Life Guide

Help our house church (common life community) plan for the coming semester. We are [number] people living together as a UBF community. Create: 1) A weekly rhythm template (morning devotion, evening fellowship, Bible study nights, prayer meetings, house duties), 2) Suggestions for building genuine Christian community (not just sharing space), 3) How to handle common community challenges (conflicts, different schedules, introvert/extrovert balance, cleanliness standards), 4) Ideas for hospitality toward new students and sheep, 5) A framework for mutual accountability that is encouraging, not controlling.

Source: UBF Common Life Tradition

B.8 World Mission & Missionary Life

Prompt UBF-20: Missionary Prayer Letter

Help me write a missionary prayer letter/newsletter for our supporting chapters and prayer partners. Our mission field is [city/country]. This [month/quarter], key updates include: [list 3-5 updates such as: new Bible study contacts, a sheep's growth, campus events, personal/family news, challenges faced]. Structure the letter with: 1) A warm greeting with a relevant Scripture, 2) Ministry highlights told as stories (not just statistics), 3) Honest sharing about challenges and how we are trusting God, 4) Specific prayer requests (3-5, numbered for easy reference), 5) A word of thanks to supporters. Tone: honest, faith-filled, personal, not performative. Length: 400-600 words.

Source: UBF Missionary Tradition

Prompt UBF-21: Mission Report for Conference

Help me prepare a [5-minute / 10-minute] mission report to present at our [regional/international] conference. Our chapter is at [university/city]. This year: [number] 1:1 Bible studies, [number] new sheep, [number] people at worship, key events: [list]. Help me structure the report as: 1) Brief context (who we are, where we are), 2) 1-2 testimony stories that show God's work (specific, not generic), 3) Honest reflection on challenges and lessons learned, 4) Vision and prayer topics for the coming year, 5) A closing Scripture of faith. Make it personal and story-driven, not a list of statistics.

Source: UBF Conference Tradition

Prompt UBF-22: Campus Mission Strategy

Help our UBF chapter develop a [one-year / one-semester] campus mission strategy for [university name]. Current status: [number] shepherds, [number] sheep, [number] at Sunday worship. University characteristics: [size, type, notable features]. Create: 1) A prayer vision statement for this campus (1-2 sentences), 2) Outreach goals (realistic but faith-stretching), 3) Semester calendar with key outreach events and Bible study milestones, 4) A strategy for reaching [specific groups: international students / graduate students / freshmen / student-athletes], 5) How to develop current sheep into future shepherds, 6) How to connect campus ministry to world mission vision.

Source: UBF Campus Mission

A Note on AI in UBF Ministry

UBF's ministry power comes from personal, sacrificial relationships — a shepherd who prays by name for their sheep, who prepares Bible study on their knees, who shares their own honest testimony. AI can help with research, question development, and administrative tasks. It can never replace the spiritual authority that comes from a shepherd's own walk with God and love for their sheep. Use these prompts to prepare more thoroughly, not to prepare less personally.

End of Document

Part I: 6 Chapters — Principles, Checklists & Best Practices

Part II: 137 Prompts Across 20 Ministry Categories

Part III: Inductive Bible Study (15 Prompts) + UBF Ministry (22 Prompts)

Compiled February 2026