PREACHING PHILOSOPHY

No communicator can be all things to all people *all of the time*. Preaching styles and strategies vary wildly. Some people connect well with "doctrinally rich expository preaching," while others grow best with the "practical application of the gospel." The truth is even adding adjectives and descriptors like I just did can give the illusion that some forms of preaching are superior to others. In truth, whenever the word of God is opened it can be life-changing, regardless of the structure of the sermon. Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires." Because of this truth, we do not disparage any presentation style of God's word through preaching. Our desire is to integrate several different styles throughout our year so we can best connect with as many people as possible. Here are some additional details about our strategy.

FROM "COME AND SEE" TO "COME AND DIE."

Jesus' strategy naturally attracted large crowds. He didn't fight that. He healed people, fed them, and taught in a down-to-earth manner. However, he didn't fight to keep the crowds large. He would always move them from "come and see!" to "come and die." He would ask people for larger commitments as time went on—and the crowd naturally thinned out. God has not called us to make crowds but to make disciples. At the same time, disciples are normally birthed from the crowds. We will utilize techniques throughout the year to build crowds with the intent to build disciples.

6 MAJOR FOOD GROUPS OF PREACHING

- Book Series
- Character Study - men then women
- Attractional/Topical Studies - Relationships
- Thematic Studies - I AM statements, B-attitudes, Spiritual Warefare, Prayer, Servant Leadership, Role of Pastor/Deacons/Congregation, Faith, Repentance, Love, Obedience, Fruits of the Spirit, Parenting, The Bible and money, Dealing with anger, Sexuality, Redemption, Forgiveness, Justification, Reconciliation, Atonement, Grace, anxiety, depression, suicide, loneliness, sabbath, evangelism, God's will, Missions, Leadership, Pain, Art of Confrontation, Parables, Satan, Temptation, Winning the War in your mind, Take Back Your life (identity), Gratitude (Stay Positive), Your Verse
- Doctrine Series - Grace, Salvation, Heaven (one minute after you die), Hell, Fasting, Worship, Baptism, Communion, Angels, Eternal Security
- State of the Church // Church Values

WE PREACH IN SERIES

Your muscles grow through stress and release. If you were to do the same workout all the time with no time to rest your muscles, you would only see incremental improvements. You also grow spiritually through stress and release. Throughout the year we will have many series as we shift from one to the next. We often try to pick one book or character to study multiple times throughout the year. For example, in 2021 and 2022 we studied the book of Acts. If we were to try studying it in one sequential series it would need between 20-45 Sundays. This would not allow us to utilize our stress and release strategy, therefore we split it into several "mini-series" over the course of two years.

TYPES OF SERIES

Series typically fall into one of three categories: **Attractional, Balance, or Growth.** The reality is *every* series should accomplish all three, but the prioritized wins may shift from series to series.

ATTRACTIONAL
An attractional series is one that is designed to appeal to Crosspointe Chris who is living in the surrounding area. Examples could be *Dealing with Toxic People, At the Movies,* or a relationship series.

BALANCE
A well balanced diet often needs a variety of foods that can be overlooked. Similarly, throughout the year it may be necessary to offer a series about giving, doctrine, or core values. These are important for alignment and balance for Crosspointers.

GROWTH
The number one goal for a growth series is fostering **spiritual growth** in the individual. This is typically where the expository series go.

ALL 52 WEEKS ARE ACCOUNTED FOR

The preaching team **plans the entire next calendar year in August at the Lead Team and Preaching Retrea**t. We decide on the series but typically the particulars are figured out at a future date. For example, we may know we are doing a series named *Asking for a Friend* but we might not know who is writing it and the exact topic until later.

CAMPUS PASTORS SPEAKING

We develop a shared preaching calendar with a "Come & See" to a "Come & Die" approach using a variety of speakers. We use Felt Needs Series to attract people ("Come & See") for our Big Days, we teach through a book of the Bible chunked in series each year rotating Old Testament & New Testament books every other year with of goal of 15-20 weeks per year. We do one character series each year rotating Male & Female Characters, and we include some balance and doctrine series in the in betweens. Alignment of team teaching around series/topic, text, and points with a goal of 75% alignment. Our campuses will be broadcast 20% of the time.   80% is live teaching.

THE COMMUNICATIONS DOCUMENT IS THE AUTHORITY

Whatever is recorded in the Communications Document is authoritative. Any decisions that are made *must* be reflected in the Communications Document otherwise they will be disregarded. Use it for who is preaching, topics, and the writer.

LEAD PASTOR DECIDES ON THE PREACHING CALENDAR

The Lead Pastor ultimately decides on who is preaching live vs. which campus is receiving the sermon on screen. It is also his decision as to who is writing the sermon. Lastly, it is his decision if he chooses to change direction on a sermon or series. He will update you on changes and may ask you to make the change on the Communications Document.

SERMON OUTLINES/TRANSCRIPTS ARE STORED IN DRIVE

There are typically between 3-5 people who need access to sermon notes every single week. Even on the weeks when one communicator is being broadcast to every campus the production team needs notes for ProPresenter and the Growth Group team needs to create sermon based questions. Create and store your sermon notes in Google Drive.

FORMAT APPROPRIATELY
Any passage, photo, or video that is intended to be on the screen should be highlighted in yellow. Make the text in red anything that you think would be best for a sermon reel.

KEEP ACCESSIBILITY IN MIND
Because we share our sermon notes with so many different people it is important to write and structure your notes in a way that anyone needing to use them can understand how to adapt them. Give the appropriate amount of context so it can be adapted in its various forms.

DEADLINES
Our deadline is Wednesday at Noon for Sermons to be finalied for propresenter specifically highlighted material. We review on Thursdays at 3pm at the Anaheim broadcast location for the screen with the team.

AIM FOR 30 MINUTES

When writing and speaking the ideal length for Crosspointe is a 30 minute sermon.

DRIP THE VALUES

When writing whenever and wherever possible use the 4 church values & slides including the value name, the statement and the verse.

SERMON RUN THROUGHS

The communicator responsible for writing the sermon typically presents at a run-through 13 days before the intended weekend. For example, if your sermon is scheduled for Sunday, January 22 you will have your run-through on Monday, January 9. The meeting is among the campus pastors weekly at 4:30pm on Monday. If another staff member is invited to speak that person will join the others for the appropriate Monday. It is the responsibility of those in attendance to find ways to improve on the sermon. It may be with illustrations, hermeneutic insight, or possible quotes.