

# Sermon Design Worksheet

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## Step 1: Complete Sermon Discernment

1. What text do I want to preach from? *Mark 5:25-34*
2. What did I discover when I read the text?
3. Am I working with a good translation?
4. What is the essential section of this text? Where does it start and stop?
5. What have others said about this text?
6. What is my point of contact with this text?
7. How would I communicate this text in my own words?

## Step 2: Walk through the “bridge method”

- A sermon is a conversation between contemporary disciples and an ancient text, a text that we value and hold ourselves to doctrinally and practically. In this way, the entire process connected to the designing and delivering of a sermon can be compared to a bridge:



- On one end of the bridge is the *contemporary world*, where an existential “itch”<sup>1</sup> has compelled us to seek guidance.
  - On the other end of the bridge is the *biblical world*, where the theological “scratch”<sup>2</sup> waits for discovery. This is not to say that the Bible is an “answer-book,” only that the text has something to say to us and our contemporary situation.
- As we think about a sermon from this text, what biblical and contemporary concerns should we be aware of?

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<sup>1</sup>Eugene L. Lowry, *The Homiletical Plot: The Sermon as Narrative Art Form*, rev. ed. (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001), 18.

<sup>2</sup>Lowry, *The Homiletical Plot*, 18.