

# Sermon Development Worksheet

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## Good Sermons Have "Building Blocks"<sup>1</sup>

- **One Text** – a sermon should be built around the exposition of a singular text.
- **One Theme** – a sermon should only be about one idea, one concept, based in scripture and defined as a simple sentence of 3-5 words.
  1. No questions – Questions leave the sermon open to too much interpretation and allow both the preacher and the listener to wonder aimlessly.
  2. No compound sentences – The more ideas in the Theme Sentence, the more content that will need to be covered in the sermon.
- **One Doctrine** – a sermon should teach something about the Christian faith. It may not be the full focus of the sermon, however there should be a teaching element that lend itself to practical expression.
- **One Need** – a sermon should address the need the passage addresses, not necessarily the perceived need of the congregation. That would be done in a topical message.
- **One Image** – a sermon should be illustrated well, with well-crafted imagery that serves the message rather than replaces the message. Think of images as windows.
  1. The **image** could be one well-crafted story that is woven throughout the message.
  2. The **image** could be a collection of stories that are centered around a common illustrative theme.
- **One Mission** – a sermon should challenge the congregation practically, to do something as a result of hearing the sermon. Good sermon applications should be:
  1. **Concrete** – Good applications should be explained simply.
  2. **Reasonable** – Good applications should be common activities.
  3. **Measurable** – Good applications should be demonstrated in the listener's life.
  4. **Example:** In response to a sermon on teaching our young, I challenged my congregation "to write a letter that 1) discussed their conversion experience, 2) outlined basic Christian beliefs, and 3) named basic spiritual practices." We put a mailbox in our lobby so that we could receive the letters and distribute them to the children in our "God's Squad" ministry.

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<sup>1</sup>Paul Scott Wilson, *The Four Pages of the Sermon: A Guide to Biblical Preaching* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999), 33-57.

## Sermon Development Exercise # 1 – Mark 4:35-41

- One Text: Mark 4:35-41
- One Theme (3-5 words):
- One Doctrine:
- One Need:
- One Image:
- One Mission (active action statement that starts with “to”):

## Sermon Development Exercise # 2 – Mark 9:14-29

- One Text: Mark 9:14-29
- One Theme (3-5 words):
- One Doctrine:
- One Need:
- One Image:
- One Mission (active action statement that starts with “to”):