

**PREACHING THE STORY OF GOD
SYLLABUS
VIRGINIA DISTRICT TRAINING CENTER
Course Dates: September 8-October 26**

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Module Vision Statement:

This module serves to train the student in one of the most important tasks of pastoral ministry, the preaching of the Word of God. This task is considered foundational to fulfilling the calling of God to the ordained ministry. The Apostle Paul illustrated the importance of proclamation in his charge to Timothy: "Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage, with great patience and careful instruction" (2 Tim 4:2).

This module addresses the need for preparation of the preacher as a necessary prerequisite to the preparation and delivery of the sermon, so both the preacher and the spoken message will have authority. This module will equip the student to go through the process of sermon construction from a hermeneutical study of the biblical text, through the stages of development, until the sermon is ready to be delivered. Attention will be given to the preaching event as the oral culmination of the sermon process, including the call for a decision. In addition, the module will aid the student in understanding the need for planning a preaching program that addresses the needs of the congregation and aids in the overall worship experience of the people of God. The skills developed from this module will also help the minister to be an effective teacher of the Bible to the church.

For maximum benefit, this module should be taken after the student has completed modules in Introduction to Christian Ministry, Oral and Written Communication, Old Testament, New Testament, and Biblical Hermeneutics, since a working knowledge in these areas will be assumed in the instruction.

Outcome Statements

This module contributes to the development of the following abilities as defined in the *U.S. Sourcebook for Ministerial Development*.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- CN16 Ability to identify the steps of historical literary, and theological analysis used in exegesis
- CN17 Ability to exegete a passage of Scripture using the steps listed above
- CP1 Ability to communicate publicly through multiple methods (oral, written, media, etc.) with clarity and creativity for the sake of fostering meaning
- CP2 Ability to write clearly and in grammatically correct manner in the modes of discourse used in the ministry
- CP3 Ability to speak coherently and cogently in the modes of discourse appropriate for the various ministry contexts
- CP22 (Elder) Ability to prepare, organize, and deliver biblically sound sermons using appropriate techniques and skills in culturally appropriate ways

- CP24 (Elder) Ability to assess the strengths and weaknesses of current homiletical models in light of enduring theological (Bible, doctrine, philosophy) and contextual (history, psychology, sociological) perspectives
- CP21 Ability to envision, order, participate, and lead in contextualized theologically grounded worship
- CP15 Ability to think globally and engage cross-culturally for the purpose of mission
- CP16 Ability to communicate evangelistically and to be engaged with and equip others in personal and congregational evangelism
- CX1 Ability to discover sociological dynamics and trends and to apply that information to specific ministry settings
- CX2 Ability to analyze and describe congregations and communities
- CX4 Ability to explain the operational culture
- CX9 Ability to apply historical analysis to the life of a local congregation in order to describe its historical and cultural context

OUTCOME STATEMENTS

- The ability to organize, prepare, and deliver biblically valid sermons using skills and techniques in culturally appropriate ways
- The ability to identify and select the most appropriate approach to developing a preaching text, such as narrative, inductive, deductive, or other sermon forms
- The ability to preach with cultural and spiritual sensitivity in order to address the needs of the audience
- The ability to prepare and consistently preach sermons which effectively call listeners to new life in Christ and to entire sanctification
- The ability to appropriately express pastoral care and a call to discipleship through a balanced and thoughtful preaching plan
- The ability to incorporate the sermon into the planning of the entire worship program
- The ability to be sensitive to the verbal and non-verbal responses that are part of the two-way process of effective communication
- The ability to process and integrate the behavioral and character implications of the truth of the sermon into the life of the preacher

Required Texts

Stanley, Andy & Jones, Lane. *Communicating for a Change: Seven Keys to Irresistible Communication*. Multnomah Books, 2006.

Pick One

Arthurs, Jeffrey D. *Preaching with Variety: How to Create the Dynamics of Biblical Genres*. Kregel Academic and Professional, 2007.

Sweet, Leonard. *Giving Blood: A Fresh Paradigm for Preaching*. Zondervan, 2014.

Course Requirements

1. Video Lectures: The first 3 weeks a video lecture will be made available to you through Dropbox. (If you do not have this, please download it to the device you will use). Watch the lecture in its entirety and take notes as you do.
 - Week 1—Engaging the Text
 - Week 2—Using Resources

- Week 3—The Sermon

2. Discussion Boards: Each week there will be an activity posted on the class website to help you in mastering the material and in preparing your sermon. This will require you to be familiar with the lecture and any reading due by that week. These will be found at our online classroom <http://preachingthestoryofgoddtc.blogspot.com/>

Initial Post due by WEDNESDAY at 11:59PM

Respond to 3 fellow students by FRIDAY at 11:59PM

Respond to any posts on your initial post by SUNDAY at 11:59PM

3. Book Review 1: Read *Communicating for Change* in its entirety. Use the format given at the end of the syllabus to review the book. Email the instructor an electronic copy of your review. **Due no later than 11:59 on September 22.**
4. Book Review 2: Read EITHER *Giving Blood* OR *Preaching with Variety* in their entirety. Use the format given at the end of this syllabus to review the book. Email the instructor an electronic copy of your review. **Due no later than 11:59 on October 6.**
5. Sermon Review: In Week 4 of the course 2 sermons will be made available to watch. Watch 1 of them. Use the form that will be provided to analyze the sermon. Post your analysis to the Discussion Board. Use the same schedule as the other discussion board posts.
6. Sermon: Prepare a sermon on a text of your choice. Prepare the sermon over the first 5 weeks of the course as directed in the discussion boards. Then video your delivery of the sermon. If possible, arrange to do so in a worship setting or in front of others. Upload your video to Dropbox. Once all the sermons are uploaded, view your classmates sermons. Then, on the discussion board, share 3 positive thoughts for each classmate. Finally, share "One thing that could have made your sermon even more effective is..." **Due dates for your sermon to be determined once roster is finalized.**
7. Sermon Coaching (Optional): During the 4th week of the course, the instructor will be available on through Google Hangouts to have conversation about the sermon you are preparing or preaching in general. This time is open to everyone in the class and is optional.
8. Sermon Coaching (Required): After you have presented your sermon, you will meet with the instructor via phone or Google Hangouts to review the sermon. This should take approximately 30 minutes.

Course Evaluation:

Discussion Board Posts	200 points/wk (75 initial post, 100 responses, 25 grammar)
Stanley Book Review	150 points
Choice Book Review	150 points
Sermon Reviews	150 points
Sermon Coaching	150 points
Sermon	<u>400 points</u> (300 sermon, 100 responses)
	1600 total possible points

Late work may only be accepted if communication with the professor is made. This does not guarantee acceptance, but opens the possibility.

To pass the course, each assignment must be completed.

Grades will be assigned as follows:

Pass With Distinction	1440 or above
Pass	1120-1439
Fail	1119 or below

Resources

Additional resources and information for this course can be found at nazarenepastor.org. Click on the 24 modules and you can download both the faculty and student guides for *Preaching the Story of God*.

Additional Information

A reasonable effort to assist every student will be made. Any student who has handicaps, learning disabilities, or other conditions that make the achievement of class requirements exceedingly difficult should make an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible to see what special arrangements can be made. Any student who is having trouble understanding the assignments, lectures, or other learning activities should talk to the instructor to see what can be done to help.

Instructor's Availability

Good faith efforts to serve the students both in and beyond the classroom will be made.

Book Report Form

Include: Name, date, book, and percentage of book read at the top of the paper

- 1. Thesis or Purpose:** Write the main idea the author is trying to communicate in this book. This section should be NO MORE than 50 words.
- 2. Insight #1 Learned:** State the insight, then write one paragraph about how this will help you in ministry
- 3. Insight #2 Learned:** State the insight, then write one paragraph about how this will help you in ministry
- 4. Insight #3 Learned:** State the insight, then write one paragraph about how this will help you in ministry
- 5. Quotes:** Give 5 quotes with page number and 1-2 sentences explaining why you thought this quote was important.