

# A Few Ideas for Sermon Series and Bible Classes

Prepared by Jeff Kryder (March 2025) (#13, 14, 16, 19 are at top of list for sermon series)

## 1. Broken Signposts (6 weeks)

- a. The class is based upon NT Wright's book Broken Signposts.
- b. 7 Signposts - Justice. Love. Spirituality. Beauty. Freedom. Truth. Power.
- c. We will track these signposts in the Bible, primarily passages in John's Gospel.
- d. We will consider how we see the Signposts in our culture, politics, business, churches, family, and ourselves, etc.
- e. We will think about what Jesus teaches us through these signposts and the mending of these signposts in God's new creation.

## 2. Life is Messy! (7 weeks)

- a. Using Scripture, illustration, and personal transparency to set the stage, the class will explore the following questions and then each week offer a practical kickstart on the way forward:
  - i. STEAL - Who is stealing from you?
  - ii. STUCK - What will it take for you to get unstuck?
  - iii. CRUSH – Can you describe a soul crushing experience? If you allowed your trauma to speak, what would it say?
  - iv. THREATS - What are the greatest threats to your health and happiness?
  - v. EXPLORE - What would it take for you to become an expert on yourself?
  - vi. CHERISH ONESELF - As the years go by, do you like who you are becoming? What will help you become the best version of yourself?
  - vii. CHERISH OTHERS – To whom is your indifference a sin? To whom are you bringing a re-humanization in the spirit of Jesus?

## 3. What if Romans Chapter 8 Was Your Hometown? (10-12 weeks)

- a. What if you knew Romans 8 as well as the town where you grew up? What if you knew where it was located within in its larger state? What if you were with its streets and alley? What if you could confidently guide others around "town"?
- b. Romans 8 covers the Trinity, Jesus the Messiah King, Cross, Resurrection, Ascension, Sin, Salvation, Death, Redemption, Adoption, Suffering, Glory, Holiness, Love, and Hope.

#### 4. Transforming Worship.

- a. We often taken worship for granted. What if our gathering for worship was viewed as formative spiritual practice? How does our worship allow God to shape and change us? What if we asked some questions, and probed Scripture and history to think about each element of worship?
  - i. Call to Worship.
  - ii. Congregational Singing.
  - iii. Scripture Reading.
  - iv. The Lord's Supper.
  - v. Baptism.
  - vi. Prayer.
  - vii. Preaching.
  - viii. Benediction and sending

#### 5. The Heart of Your Personal Worship (7 weeks)

- a. Lord, help me to look at my heart as I honor you more faithfully.
  - W - Worshiping** - Valuing the right stuff. You are what you love.
  - O - Opening to God** - Practices that let light in.
  - R - Relinquishing self** - Letting go in a world of material things, including letting go of grudges, expectations, and fears.
  - S - Sharing our life** in a culture that is designed for privacy. The goal is interdependence and community.
  - H - Hearing from God** - Practices that form the mind of Christ in us.
  - I - Incarnating** - devoting ourselves to being Jesus to the world.
  - P - Praying** - Growing into a prayer life that never ceases.

#### 6. Prayers and Songs from Around the World and Across the Ages. (Flexible)

- a. The vision for this class is to share prayers of all types from all peoples and all times, then reflect upon and pray those prayers for our time and place.
- b. Likewise, we will draw on Christian songs and hymns from around the world and across generations.

#### 7. De-stress and Rest in God's Grace. (Flexible)

*We all have a yoke; only Jesus's yoke is easy (Matt 11:28)*

- i. Personal promises from Romans 8.
- ii. Rest in the ancient practice of Lectio Divina.
- iii. Learn and practice Breath Prayers.
- iv. "In the morning, I meet the Lord" – finding your daily devotional routine.
- v. When caught in a storm, what do you do?
- vi. God as "Abba" and giving up false notions of God.
- vii. "In Christ" with all the benefits.
- viii. "Slow down, you are moving too fast" – quiet, silence, meditation.
- ix. Completely immersed – claiming and reclaiming your baptism.

## **8. Honest to God. (6-8 Weeks) (Possible Sermon Series 6-8 weeks)**

- a. The Psalms provide a great guide for our lives, assisting us with our emotional journey (both acknowledged and not) and opening us ourselves and to God.
  - i. Open, honest, and courageous.
  - ii. Lonely and empty.
  - iii. Fear.
  - iv. Sadness, lament, and depression.
  - v. Anxiety.
  - vi. Enemies.
  - vii. Anger and injustice.
  - viii. Prayer from God, about God, and to God.
  - ix. Joy, praise, and worship.

## **9. A Life of Contagious Generosity. (Possible Sermon Series 4-6 weeks)**

- a. No one is more generous than God. Giving is intrinsic to God's being. A giving spirit is particularly visible in the generosity of Jesus. In addition, many models through the ages have demonstrated what it means to live as a generous person. This way of living appears to cost so much, but in actuality gives far more than it requires.
- b. We will examine rich passages of giving in Scripture, consider the principles at work, and do our best to add our form of generous living into our daily existence.
- c. Will use Scripture, illuminating historical figures, and personal experiences.

## **10. Key Ideas in Thinking Through Salvation Together**

- a. This class will explore the detailed handout that Jeff provided at the finish of the Thinking Through Salvation Together summer sermon series.
- b. The topics:
  - i. Heaven and Earth Become One.
  - ii. The Temple.
  - iii. The New Heavens and New Earth.
  - iv. Image Bearers.
  - v. The Restoration of All Things.
  - vi. Salvation.
  - vii. New Creation.
  - viii. Working Models.
  - ix. The Reading the Bible as God's Story Revitalizes Our Role.
  - x. Passages Linking the OT Story of Israel with The NT Story of Jesus.
  - xi. Questions to Consider.

## **11. Parenting with Kingdom Intentions. (Flexible)**

- a. Your family mindset.
- b. Your family atmosphere.
- c. Your family virtues.

## **12. Leadership of Self, Family, Work, and Church. (9-12 weeks)**

- a. Key topics to strengthen one's leadership in the primary circles of life.
  - i. Clearly seeing yourself in the story
  - ii. De-escalate drama
  - iii. Accept feedback as a gift
  - iv. Trust and respect are more important than be liked
  - v. Learn the better ways to engage in conflict
  - vi. Know others deeply
  - vii. Love does – a bias toward action
  - viii. Find your daily sources for relentless optimism
  - ix. Cultivate a growth mindset

## **13. Jesus Our All in All. (Sermon Series or Class 4 weeks)**

- a. We will look at both Old and New Testaments passages that outline the key leadership functions in the Bible and then focus on how Jesus fulfills them completely.
  - i. Jesus as Teacher.
  - ii. Jesus as Prophet.
  - iii. Jesus as Priest.
  - iv. Jesus as King.

## **14. Small Things Wise and Wonderful. (Sermon Series 8-10 weeks)**

- a. Consider God's emphasis on the value and the importance of small things.
- b. Zech 4:7 – "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord."
- c. *God wants people who are big enough to be small.*
- d. *There are no insignificant people and no insignificant events. Stanley Shipp*
  - i. Ex 16 – Manna on the ground.
  - ii. 1 Sam 17 – 5 Small stones and a Shepherd Boy.
  - iii. 2 Kings 4:1-7 – The widow's oil.
  - iv. Judges 7 - Gideon's "Army"
  - v. Elijah: A Still Small Voice.
  - vi. Mustard Seed. (Matt 13)
  - vii. The Least (1 Cor 12)
  - viii. A Cup of Cold Water (Matt 25)
  - ix. Faithful in the Little Things (Luke 16)
  - x. The Widow's Mite.
  - xi. 5 Fish and 2 Loaves.
  - xii. Matthew 18:20 – Where Two or Three are Gathered.
  - xiii. True Religion: Caring for widows and orphans.
  - xiv. Other: Moses' Mother makes a small ark to save Moses.

**15. The Highs and Lows of Biblical Kings. (Sermon Series 6-8 weeks)**

- a. Israel and Judah saw it all. As the leadership went, so did the nation. We will look at the highlights and lowlights of several of the Biblical kings as instruction for us.
  - i. Saul.
  - ii. Rehoboam.
  - iii. Manasseh.
  - iv. Asa.
  - v. Jehosaphat.
  - vi. Hezekiah.
  - vii. Josiah.
  - viii. David.

**16. God Values the Outsiders. (Sermon Series 4-5 weeks)**

- a. Hagar.
- b. Rahab.
- c. Ruth.
- d. Jonah.
- e. Naaman.

**17. When Faith and Doubt Meet. (Sermon Series – 8 weeks)**

- a. Doubt is the mother of faith. Faith is rarely certainty, but trust. Biblical examples of mixing faith and doubt give us permission to struggle with God and our faith as well.
  - i. Adam and Eve were unable to trust God.
  - ii. Moses doubted that he was the right one to lead Israel.
  - iii. Gideon tested God, twice.
  - iv. Job openly questioned God.
  - v. Elijah begs God to take his life.
  - vi. John the Baptist Questions if Jesus is the Messiah.
  - vii. Thomas doubts Jesus.
  - viii. Some of the Disciples Doubted.

**18. Elijah and Elisha: Prophets of Revival. (Sermon Series 4-6 weeks)**

**19. The Gift of Genuine Repentance. (Sermon Series 3-4 weeks leading to Easter)**

- a. Viewing repentance as a gift and a privilege.
- b. Ps 32, 51, 84, and 139. In the NT, key passages: Acts 5:31, 2 Tim 2:25, 2 Peter 3:8-9, 2 Cor 7:10, James 5:16, and I John 1:8-9.
- c. Developing repentance as a regular discipline.

**20. Worship: On Earth as in Heaven. (Sermon Series – 5 weeks)**

- a. Glimpse into heavenly worship to inform our earthly worship.
- b. Primarily use key passages from the Book of Revelation.
- c. Revelation 4:8-11, 5:9-10, 12-14, 7:10-12, 11:16-17, and 15:3-4.