

Shaping a Message: From Text to Idea

How do we move from personal Bible study to preparing a message that is biblical, clear, engaging, and relevant to our listeners? This session gives an overview of the steps from the study of the text to understanding the main idea. A group exercise will engage the process with a specific biblical text.

Mike Chalmers works at Cor Deo as a mentor and administrator. Previously, he was a Staff Worker in Wales with UCCF. He enjoys preaching and discipling and continues to support and encourage university students by speaking at training events and missions. He has just completed two years of study with Union School of Theology as part of one of their Learning Communities. Mike is an uncle to three nephews, a brother to one sister, and is getting married in the summer!

I. The Four ‘Locations’ of sermon preparation

Worked example – Matthew 1:18-25

A. Location 1 - “The Study”

1. Passage Selection

2. Passage Study

3. Passage Purpose

4. Passage Idea

B. Location 2 - “The Prayer Place”

1. Pray through your own response to the passage

2. Pray for your listeners’ response to the passage

Suggested Readings:

Arthurs, Jeffrey D. “*Preaching with Variety*” (Kregel)

Chappell, Bryan “*Christ-Centered Preaching*” (Baker)

Köstenberger, Andreas “*Invitation to Biblical Interpretation*” (Kregel)

Mead, Peter “biblicalpreaching.net”

Robinson, Haddon W. “*Expository Preaching*” (IVP)