

Infecting People with a Love for God's Word

If you have the privilege of influencing people in the church, then a top priority must surely be to infect them with a love for God's Word. Whether you are a preacher/teacher, Bible study leader, or seeking to influence one-on-one, this workshop is about infecting the people around you with a love for God's Word. Together we will consider ways in which we can both model effective Bible habits, and motivate personal Bible time, in both teaching and discipleship settings.

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I. 8 Foundational Assumptions

A. Concerning the Bible

1. It is God's Word – "When the Bible speaks, God speaks." (Augustine)
2. It is all God's Word.

B. Concerning People

3. God's Word transforms lives.
4. God's Word is needed by all believers – "Nothing less than a whole Bible can make a whole Christian." (A.W.Tozer)

C. Concerning Church

5. People in our churches need more than just the Sunday sermon.
6. The church has a critical role to play in equipping and motivating believers to be men and women of the Word.

D. Concerning Communication

7. Our communication influences the attitudes and actions of others
8. Our influence is not always what we intend (Perlocutions in Speech Acts)

II. Common Traps We Fall Into

A. Personal Bible Reading

1. Negative suggestion.
2. Inadequate example

B. Personal Bible Study

1. The negative effect of authenticating evidence (eg. citing the Greek)
2. The power of example works both ways (eg. safari style study)

III. Principles of Influence

A. Modelling

1. In brief: "People _____, people _____."
2. Explanation

B. Motivating

1. Part 1: "Breed _____ in competence."
2. Part 2: "While emphasizing _____."

C. Infectious enthusiasm

IV. 15 Suggestions for Proclamation

"The Sermon: The Weekly Expert Observation Workshop!"

A. Introductions

1. Early relevance

2. Beware of implied revelation

B. Bible Reading

3. Creating competence through public reading
4. Model contextual awareness

C. Main Idea

5. Excessive eloquence
6. Excessive disconnect

D. Sermon Structure

7. The power of reflecting the textual shape whenever possible
8. The risks of text-hopping

E. Support Material

9. The side-effects of authentication via original languages

10. The side-effects of authentication via technical terminology

11. The side-effects of authentication via scholarly quotation

F. “Illustrations”

12. Be sure to illustrate application as well as explanation and proof

13. Beware of introductory comments – “we all know...”

G. Conclusions

14. Do not put closure on a passage

15. For further study

V. Suggestions for Discipleship

A. “Aggressive Relational” Reading Partnerships

1. Aggressive pace

2. Relational focus

3. Partnership

B. Other Ideas

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Recommended resources

Kent Edwards, *Deep Preaching* (B&H, 2009)

Ron Frost, *Discover the Power of the Bible* (Harvest House, 2000)

Howard Hendricks, *Living by the Book* (Moody, 1991)

Ray Lubeck, *Read the Bible for a Change* (Authentic, 2005)

Robert Mager, *Developing Attitude Toward Learning* (Pitman, 1984)

Robert Mager, *How to Turn Learners On, Without Turning Them Off* (CEP, 1987)

Donald Sunukjian, *Invitation to Biblical Preaching* (Kregel, 2007)

Timothy Ward, *Words of Life* (IVP, 2009)

www.biblicalpreaching.net – daily posts from Peter Mead relating to sermon preparation, delivery and the life of the preacher.

www.cordeo.org.uk – weekly posts from Peter Mead and Ron Frost relating to spiritual formation and applied theology.