

## **How to Craft a Message: Pursuing Biblically Faithful and Culturally Relevant Preaching**

The preacher is pulled in two directions: a need for biblical faithfulness and a need for contemporary relevance. How can we craft messages that will achieve these goals? In this session we will overview a process that will help us all move from the text of the Bible to the experience of our listeners' lives. This overview will be helpful as we consider the subject of preaching for the rest of the week. More importantly, whether you are new to preaching, or have been preaching for years, it is helpful to think through how we can best prepare faithful and relevant biblical messages.

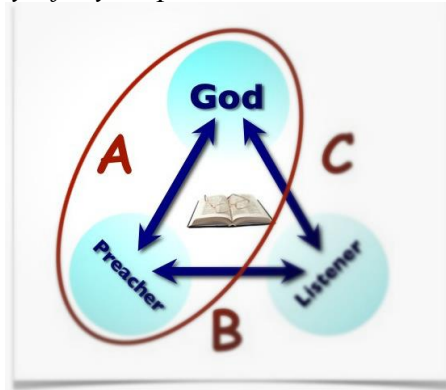
**Peter Mead** is a mentor at Cor Deo, a mentored study and ministry training programme in Chippenham, England. He is also involved in the leadership of a church plant. Peter studied at Multnomah Biblical Seminary before getting his Doctor of Ministry degree under Haddon Robinson at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, in the area of expository preaching. Peter's latest book, *Foundations: Four Big Questions We Should Be Asking But Typically Don't*, was released in September 2015 - go to [FourBigQuestions.com](http://FourBigQuestions.com) for more information. He wrote *Pleased to Dwell* (also Christian Focus), as well as his blog for preachers: [BiblicalPreaching.net](http://BiblicalPreaching.net). You can follow him on Twitter at [twitter.com/petermead](https://twitter.com/petermead). He is married to Melanie and they have six children.

### **Introductory Remarks**

- A. Mechanistic approaches will not produce deep preaching
- B. Haphazard approaches will not produce effective preaching
- C. Prayerful dependence and good stewardship is the critical combination

### **I. The First Location: The \_\_\_\_\_**

**Your goal:** *To accurately state the main idea of the passage in a single sentence summary as you prayerfully respond to God's work in your life through that passage.*

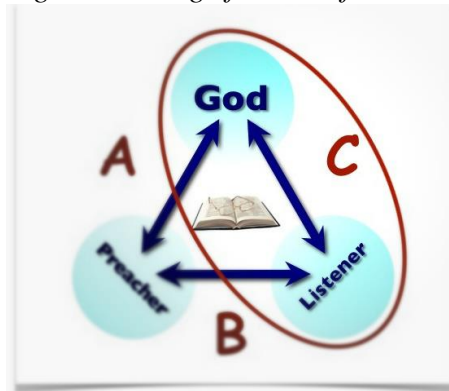


## Preparation Stages:

1. **Passage Selection** - select the passage you will preach (or check the passage you've been assigned).
2. **Passage Study** – “no matter how clever you are, what you can make it say is not as good as what God made it say!” So study:
  - a. **Context**
    - i. Historical Context
    - ii. Written Context
  - b. **Content**
    - i. Details
    - ii. Structure / Flow of thought
3. **Passage Purpose** – What was the author trying to achieve by writing this passage? Look for explicit statement of purpose, as well as implicit intention revealed by tone, content, etc.
4. **Passage Idea** – State the thought of the section in a single sentence summary.

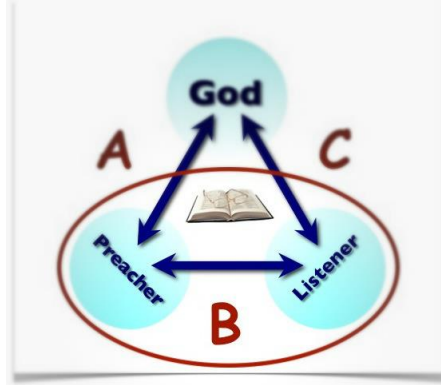
## II. The Second Location: \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_!

**Your goal:** *To bring the listeners and the passage before the Lord in prayer so that you can prepare a targeted message for them from that passage.*



**III. The Third Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your goal:** *To prepare a message that will effectively communicate the prayed through main idea of the passage to the particular listeners as an act of love for them.*



**Preparation Stages:**

5. **Message Purpose** – What are you trying to achieve by preaching this message?
6. **Message Idea** – What is your message, in a single sentence?
7. **Message Strategy** – When will you communicate you message idea? When will your message show relevance to the listener? What is your plan / outline / structure / skeleton / strategy?
8. **Message Detail** – How will you explain, prove or apply the elements in the message? How will you effectively and engagingly introduce the message? How will you encouragingly conclude the message?

**IV. The Fourth Location:** \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

**Your goal:** *To prayerfully deliver a biblical, clear, engaging, and relevant message so as to reach the lost, build the church and please your Lord.*

***Suggested Readings:***

There are numerous articles on [BiblicalPreaching.net](http://BiblicalPreaching.net) that relate to sermon preparation

Haddon Robinson, *Biblical Preaching* (Baker Books, 2014)

Donald Sunukjian, *An Invitation to Biblical preaching* (Kregel, 2007)

Andy Stanley & Lane Jones, *Communicating for a Change* (Multnomah, 2006)

Tim Keller, *Preaching* (H&S, 2015)