Lesson 1A (Theory)

The Bible Passage and the Aim



1.	a. A mess b. His ow	alonians 2:13. We sage from men. orn message. ord of God.	hat did Pau	ıl preach?		
2.		nd him and liste		e Lake of Gennesa word of God"	aret, with the people (Luke 5:1)	
3.	If we are going to follow the example of Paul, and of Jesus himself, we also ought to preach the					
4.	The Bible references below emphasize this basic principle; that of preaching the word of God. Read the references and, at the side of each one, write the capital letter of the phrase that best sums it up. The first one has been given as an example.					
	Reference	S		Phrases		
	1) B_ I	uke 8:5 & 11	A.		ne Holy Spirit the early he word of God boldly.	
	2) A	Acts 4:31	B.		ne sower, the seed which nts the word of God.	
	3) A	Acts 13:4,5	C.	The sword of the S	Spirit is the word of God.	
	4) E	Ephesians 6:17	D.	Believers are born	again by the word of God.	
	5) 1	Peter 1:23	E.		by the Holy Spirit on a y, preached the word of	
5.				hat when we preach	h, we ought to pass on to	
6.	Paul is a good	example of how	we anoht t	o preach the word	of God. He said:	
0.	"My message	•	ing were no	ot with wise and pe	ersuasive words, but with	
	How did Paul a. Trustin b. In total	preach the word	of God? lom and per the power c	sonality. of the Holy Spirit.		
An	swers					
1. 2. 3.	c. The word of God word of God	4.	1) B 2) A 3) E 4) C 5) D	5. 6.	the word of God b.	

7.	From the beging of our course we want to emphasize a very important point. All our preaching of the word of God must be based on and depend totally on the Holy Spirit.
•	That is why it is absolutaly necessary not only the preach but also to prepare ourselves in in the power of the and in total dependence on Him.
8.	The preparation of the message is as important as the actual preaching of it. For this reason you ought to pray and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit not only in the preaching the word but also in the
	A. Choosing the Bible Passage
9.	In the preparation of the message the first step that the preacher ought to take is to choose the Bible passage (or verse) on which he is going to preach The best Bible passage for your sermon will be the one you discover when you are on your knees, that is to say when you are
10.	But, on how many Bible passages ought you to base a sermon? At this point the illustration on page 3 will help us. Read what the shepherd says in drawings A and B. In drawing B what does the shepherd decide to throw at the wolves? a. 20 heavy rocks b. 20 little stones c. 1 heavy rock
11.	The shepherd's got a point hasn't he? He cannot throw 20 heavy rocks at the same time; and if he throws 20 little stones, even though they all hit the wolves, they won't have much effect. This suggests that the best basis for one sermon or talk would be: a. 1 good-sized Bible passage. b. 20 good-sized passages from different parts of the Bible. c. 20 isolated verses from different parts of the Bible.
12.	 It is important to realize that (in most cases) the best basis for a sermon or talk is one Bible passage. Check below the advantages (in most cases) of basing a sermon on just one Bible passage. a. The congregation will have to leaf through their Bibles continuously in order to find the verses quoted by the preacher. b. The congregation will have their Bibles open at one passage only, and so will be able easily to look at the verses that the preacher refers to. c. Those who listen will be able to remember afterwards the main ideas in the sermon simply through reading again the Bible passage.
Δn	Continued Swers
7.	Holy Spirit 9. praying 11 a.
8.	preparation 10. c. 12. b. c.

10	~	
12.	C01	ntinued. d. Those who listen will have to search for many different verses (that is if they can
	_	find them) in order to be reminded of what the preacher said.
		e. The preacher has the general lines of the sermon determined by the Bible
		passage, and so there is less chance of him distorting the Bible teaching.
	_	f. The preacher will be able to include all his favourite ideas and develop the sermon as he likes.
		g. The preacher will have problems preaching again about (for example) prayer because he's already said what he had in his own mind about this.
		h. The preacher will always be able to choose another Bible passage with a different slant, so as to preach on another occasion about (for example) prayer, and the sermon will be totally fresh and new.
13.	Reg	garding the previous frame, it is important to be clear that: This not absolute law, but rather a general rule.
	•	This principle of using only one Bible passage as the basis for a sermon is not a law
		that must always be obeyed but is more of a guide-line for the majority of cases.
	•	In addition we understand here by "one passage only", one that has from 1 to 100 verses — that is to say, it doesn't matter how long or short it might be, but that it is a passage with all of its verses together in just one part of the Bible.
	•	This emphasis on using one Bible passage only as the basis and source of the majority of the ideas in the sermon, does not take away the possibility of quoting briefly other verses from other parts of the Bible which support the principal passage.
	In	other words:
	a)	As an absolute rule, when we preach we must present the of
	b)	As a general and flexible rule, a sermon should he based on
	В.	The Aim of the Message
1.4		sides choosing a suitable rock, the shepherd in the picture was also concerned to
14.	cho - w	choosing a suitable fock, the sliepherd in the picture was also concerned to coose carefully his target before throwing. This is the way it should be when we preach e ought to ask ourselves, "What is the target or aim for this sermon which I am now paring?" For those who are not yet Christians, what would be the most appropriate an extra control of the control of
		a. That they will give a tenth of their income to the church.
		b. That they will witness for Christ.
_	u	c. That they will trust in Christ and become Christians.
An	SW	ers
12. 13.	e. h. a) b)	The word of God One single passage of Scripture

15.	Ch	nat would be the most ristians?		-	-		ady
		b. That they will grow	w spir	ritually.		e first time.	
	_	c. That they will reco		Ziii ist as tii	on Saviour.		
16.	Wl	nat should be our aim v	vhen	preaching	to those who:		
	1)	are not Christians?			_		
	2)	are Christians?			That they wil	1	_spiritually.
17.	firs	the opening picture in at stone: a. at one particular v b. at all the wolves the	volf.	-	-	es that he is going	to throw his
	<u>_</u>					<u>.</u>	
18.	one	e shepherd chooses ju e rock, it will have max a. none of the wolve b. one wolf. c. all of the wolves.	ium e			he well knows th	at with only
19.	pre	we think of the wolve, each, there will be mar The "wolf" of the ten The "wolf" of the lack The "wolf" of confusion The "wolf" of laziness The "wolf" of greed the The "wolf" of bitterness	ny "w nptati c of tr on in s that nat ge	volves" that ion to start ust in God, the mind o causes Pet ets at Rober	twe could attack drinking again the that affects Mary f Joanne about the er not to bother tot, causing him to	with the sermon. I nat bothers George way of salvation. o read his Bible. keep back his chu	For example:
		nat is the most we can a next Sunday? a. To get rid of one of b. To get rid of all of c. To get rid of none	of these	se spiritual e spiritual '	"wolves". wolves", many a		
	seri	te: Naturally the Holy Sp mon. But we, who have t ttack first.					
An	SW	ers					
15. 16.	b. 1) 2)	become grow	17. 18.	a. b.		19. a.	

20.	And so, just as the shepherd chooses first of all one wolf only at which to throw his first rock, hoping to have another opportunity afterwards to throw another rock at another wolf, etc., so we ought to prepare the sermon in order to try to get rid of: a. all the different spiritual "wolves" that attack those who listen to the sermon. b. none of the spiritual "wolves" that attack those who listen to the sermon. c. just one of the spiritual "wolves" that attack those who listen to the sermon.
21.	In other words, how many aims ought we (normally) to have for one sermon?
22.	I hope you will not misunderstand me in this matter of "throwing rocks at spiritual wolves"! Read Ephesians 6:12. ("Flesh and blood" means people.)
	Bearing this in mind, which of the following are the spiritual "wolves" that we want to attack with the sermon? a. Christians whom we don't get on well with. b. The unconverted who criticize us. c. Members of the congregation who are not very dedicated to the Lord. d. The problems and difficulties that are caused by the devil and his spiritual forces.
23.	Yes, we preach, not against people (and certainly not against other Christians), but against the devil. Rather, we want to help those who hear us to get rid of their spiritual enemies: Satan and the sin he causes in their lives.
	a) What should be our aim in preaching:1) to those who are Christians? That they will spiritually.
	2) to those who are not Christians? That they will Christians.
	b) In just one sermon, how many aims should we normally have?
24.	All this should not give us the impression that preaching is a work of the human mind and no more. On the contrary, if we're going to base our sermon on just one Bible passage, and have one aim only, how are we going to decide on the passage and the aim for the next sermon? a. Letting the Bible fall open anywhere and using the passage that appears before us. b. Asking the Holy Spirit to guide us in our study and thinking. c. Just asking another Christian what he thinks. d. Scratching our head and giving the matter a lot of thought.
An	swers
20. 21.	c. 22. d. 24. b. One 23. a) 1) grow 2) become b) one

25.	The same Holy Spirit who inspired the Bible is the one to show us, in answer to prayer, what part of the Bible would be the most appropriate basis for our next sermon, and how to develop the truths that it contains in order for them to be a blessing for those who are going to be present. For this reason, before preparing, we should always pray and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In Study 5 we will concern ourselves with the spiritual preparation of the preacher — the most important of all.
	But God has made us with a mind, and he wants us to use it. So now we are going to practise how to choose a suitable aim for a sermon. Let us imagine that we are going to preach on the parable of the Good Samaritan. (If you don't have a clear idea of what it says, read it in Luke 10:25-37).
	 Which of the following express the main teaching of the passage? a. You should follow the example of the Good Samaritan and show practical love, even to your enemy. b. You should follow the example of the Levite and the priest and not get involved in other people's affairs. c. You should follow the example of the teacher of the Law and try to justify yourself.
26.	So then, if the main teaching is about Christian love, which would be the most appropriate aim of the various possibilities below? a. That they should only feel love for their friends. b. That they should only express love in what they say. c. That they should show love in a practical way, doing good to all, even when it involves personal sacrifice.
27.	 Another example to give you more practice. This time the imaginary sermon is based on 1 Timothy 2:5,6. Read this passage and decide which of the following aims would be the most appropriate: a. To bring them to trust in Christ as the one to bring them to God, just in case their good behaviour is not enough. b. To bring them to trust in Christ as the only one who can bring them to God. c. To cause them to examine all the religions that there are in order to discover if, in fact, there is only one true God.
28.	One final example.Read Ephesians 6:10-13. What would be the most appropriate aim for a sermon based on this passage? □ a. We should be really frightened of the devil. □ b. We should use our own strength in the struggle against the devil. □ c. We should use all the means that God has given us for our struggle against the devil.
An	swers
25. 26.	a. 27. b. c. 28. c.

29.	Did you notice how each one of the aims we've looked at was expressed in terms of the practical effect that it was hoped to produce in the life of those who listen? This is the way it should be in preaching; we try to change lives (including our own!)					
	List 1-References	List 2-Sermon aims				
	a) Luke 11:9-13 b) Eph.2:8,9		in their relationships with others. rist as their Saviour instead of orts.			
	c) Heb. 11:8-10	C. That they persevere				
	d) James 4:7	D. That they have a firm	* *			
	e) 1 John 4:7-11	E. That they will struggl temptation.				
30.	All this shows us that when a pro	-	:			
	a. he just passes on facts an					
	something but without a	change in their attitude or				
	c. those who listen are mov	ved to put the teaching int	o practice.			
	d. those who listen acquire	new knowledge to be ab	le to boast their wisdon.			
31.	of something without doing anyt	she also does something hing about it!	e listener merely realizes that about it. You can become aware			
	Which of the following aims are	not practical?				
	Note: It is not necessary to read the show that there is a Bible passage u		each case; these are included only to mon.			
	Check only those that are not pr	actical.				
	a. That they will give gene	rously to the Lord's work	(Mark 12:41 44)			
	☐ b. That they will be enterta	ined by the story of the G	Good Samaritan			
	(Luke 10:25-27)					
	c. That with thanksgiving t (Philippians 4:6,7)	hey will take all their need	ls to the Lord in prayer			
	d. That they will realize that through Christ (2 Timoth		nselves in touch with God is			
	•	• • •	of unbelievers for their apparent			
	Note: Be ready to explain the defect to improve it.	in each aim which you feel i	s badly expressed, and suggest how			
An	swers					
29.	a) C 30. b) B c) D d) E e) A	c.	31. Feedback in group			

32.	So, in the first place you must make sure that the aim of your sermon is a call to the listeners to take action, so that those who listen to you will do something. In other words the aim should be p				
33.	But there's something else to consider. We have already see that normally in a sermon there should be only one aim. But if we're not careful, two or more distinct aims can disguise themselves as just one, causing confusion in the mind of the people (and in that of the preacher, as well!). For this reason we must make sure that as well as being practical, the aim of our sermon is also clear - really one and well defined.				
	 When a preacher has a clear aim: a. he tries to achieve just one kind of change in the lives of those who listen to him. b. he mixes together several apparently contradictory ideas. c. he addresses himself first to one group in the congregation, then to another, and then to yet another. 				
	d. he has several ideas in his mind but doesn't link them well together.				
34.	What are the two words that describe what the aim of any sermon should be like?				
	and				
35.	 Which of the following aims are not clear? (Again the Bible passages are printed to show that the sermon is based on one Bible passage only - they are not to be read now). Check only those that are not clear. a. That they will leave everything to follow Christ, maintaining contact with their previous friends in order to bring them, as well, to Christ. (Main passage Matthew 9:9-13) b. That they will use well for the Lord, all the abilities that he has given them. (Main passage Matthew 25:14-27) c. That they will believe in Christ in order to be saved, testifying to others of his love which is ready to save anyone. (Main passage John 3:16) d. That they will always keep in close, living contact with the Lord. (Main passage John 15:4,5) e. That they will persevere in prayer. (Luke 18:1-8) f. That they will forgive any wrong done to them by others, remembering God's so much greater forgiveness of the believers. (Matthew 18:23-35) 				
An	swers				
32. 33.	practical 34. Practical/Clear a 35. Feedback in Group				

Note: Be prepared to explain in the group meeting what you think is wrong with the aims that you
criticize here, and to suggest how to make them clearer. Do this in writing in an exercise book.

30.	write two words to describe what the aim of any sermon should be like.	
	and	

Now do the Test at the back of this Study Book.

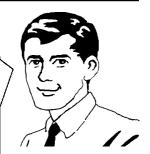
Answers

36. Practical/Clear

Lesson 1B (Practice)

Now you should be able to set aims for sermon based the following passages.

- a) Carefully read the first passage and try to summarize its main teaching.
- b) Then write, in your exercise book, the aim for your sermon.
- c) Ask yourself if your aim is clear and, if it isn't, adapt it until it is clear.
- *d)* When you are satisfied with the aim, write it below, beside the Bible reference.



The exercise on each passage will probably take you a fair amount of time, so spread your work out over the week.

1)	Luke 12:13-21.
2)	Luke 18:9-14.
3)	John 11:25,26.
4)	Hebrews 11:24-28.