

SAFNS

State It - Aim It – Frame It – Nail It – Seal It

A Method For Sermon Preparation

By David Christensen



THE REPHIDIM Project

Lifting up those who spread God's Word

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CHOOSING A TEXT

1. Does the passage contain one main idea?
2. Can the passage stand alone as an independent thought?
3. Does the passage have a beginning and ending?
4. Does your translation identify your passage as a paragraph?
5. Can your passage be broken into smaller ideas?

STATE IT

1. Where does it fit in the context of the biblical book?
2. Why did the human author write these words?
3. When does the text take place? (Historical and cultural context)
4. Who wrote it and to whom was it written?
5. What are the key words/terms and their meanings?
6. What is the kingdom connection? (Story of the Bible or meta narrative)
7. What does the text teach us about God/Christ?
8. What is the main idea in your passage? (Subject and verb)
9. How does the author structure the text?

STRUCTURAL DIAGRAM OF THE PASSAGE

AIM IT (Central Idea and Purpose)

The Big Idea (Haddon Robinson, *Biblical Preaching*)

Restate the main idea in contemporary terms.

1. What am I talking about?
2. What am I saying about what I am talking about?

The Purpose

1. So what? What difference does it make?
2. What are the needs of the people that this passage addresses?
3. Do I want to inform, persuade or motivate the people?
4. What do I want the sermon to do?

FRAME IT (Outline)

1. What are the contemporary life parallels I see in this passage? (CLP)
2. What are the main points as demonstrated by the structural diagram?
3. How do these main ideas point back to the big idea?
- 4.. How can I state the main points in contemporary life terms?
5. How can I state the main points applicationally?
6. How can I say it so people remember it?

NAIL IT (Application and Illustration)

1. How can I stick the biblical principles to real life situations?
2. How do I make abstract truths concrete? (Illustration)
3. How can I answer the questions people are asking?
4. How do I help people see and feel what I am saying? (Imagination)
5. How do I demonstrate that it applies to me first?
6. How do I flavor the message with grace? (Avoid mere moralism)
7. How do I show people that God will help them do it?

SEAL IT (Conclusion and Introduction)

Seal the deal. Call to action.

1. How will I call people to the point of decision (POD)?
2. How will I bring the sermon to a climax?
3. What do I want people to believe, be or do as a result of this sermon?
4. How can I awaken an awareness of need to start the sermon?
5. What's my hook? How can I get people's attention?

SUMMARY

TITLE:

TEXT:

CENTRAL IDEA:

PURPOSE:

OUTLINE: