

EPI-CENTER INFORMATION PACKET



THE REPHIDIM Project
Lifting up those who spread God's Word

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EPI-Center is a collaborative effort to bring expository resources and training to New England pastors, church leaders and those who have a call to preach. The Cecil B. Day Foundation began the EPI-Center in 2015, and over 450 preachers have received training through the ministry. The EPI-Center merged with The Rephidim Project in September 2018. We train expository preachers by providing tools, resources, and teaching. We coordinate intensive preaching institutes and workshops for pastors in New England. If you would like to host an institute or workshop, please contact us, and we will be glad to work with you to schedule one.

WHAT WE DO

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

Accurately handling the word of truth every week requires diligence along with the right tools to produce messages that not only explain the text carefully but also provide challenging applications. The EPI-Center wants to help in this process. We provide affordable workshops throughout New England using the best available teachers who bring the principles of expository preaching to light and encourage continuing education through a “cohort-based” model of development.

HOW WE DO IT

EPI-CENTER INSTITUTES

Institutes are one or two-day intensive events located throughout New England. We partner with established preaching organizations to provide excellent instruction in homiletics by experienced practitioners from around the country. EPI works with local pastors to cultivate the context and venue that best serves area pastors. We utilize the best available teachers, helpful study materials and easy online registration.

INSTITUTE PARTNERS

Crosstalk Global



J. Kent Edwards, Ph.D., D.Min., is the Founder and CEO of CrossTalk Global.

Kent’s purpose in life is to change people’s lives with the Word of God and help others do the same. He has spent his life pastoring God’s people, preaching God’s word, and helping pastors around the world serve their Savior more effectively. He

has authored two award-winning books, *Deep Preaching* (B&H 2009) and *Effective First-Person Biblical Preaching* (Zondervan, 2005).

The Charles Simeon Trust



course).

Using a unique combination of world-class professors and accomplished practitioners, these courses help students become familiar with how to preach and teach from each genre of the Bible (Literary Genre course), how texts function in the context of the whole Bible (Biblical Theology course), and how our doctrinal convictions should have an impact on our preparation (Systematic Theology

The Haddon W. Robinson Center for Preaching



Welcome to the Center for Preaching at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, a center that exists to equip pastors and lay preachers to communicate God's word effectively. If this is your first time, start with our weekly podcast - Preaching Points. If you're looking for more in-depth conversation and instruction on preaching, check out PulpitTalk, our quarterly CD journal on preaching. For those who are just starting out in the study of preaching, you will benefit from spending a few days with our faculty at the Preachers' College. And if you would like help on a sermon you are currently preparing or have recently preached, check out Sermon Doctor Rx.

The Stephen Olford Center



others to do likewise.

The Stephen Olford Center is dedicated to facilitating educational programming that embodies the ministry legacy of Dr. Stephen Olford (1918-2004). Dr. Olford was a champion for expository preaching in the United States and around the world. He was often termed a preacher's preacher and devoted his life to preaching the Word of God through the power of the Holy Spirit and teaching

The Adrian Rogers Pastor Training Institute



The institute is a training series for developing ministry leaders who know how to think biblically, spiritually, and practically as they shepherd the flock of God. Sessions include • The Sermon's Integrity • The Sermon's Preparation • The Sermon's Illustration • The Sermon's Presentation • The Sermon's Invitation.

One Passion Ministries



oversees the Doctor of Ministry program at The Master's Seminary, where he also serves on its board. Dr. Lawson is also Professor in Residence for Truth Remains.

Dr. Steven J. Lawson is President and founder of OnePassion Ministries, a ministry designed to equip biblical expositors to bring about a new reformation in the church. Dr. Lawson hosts The Institute for Expository Preaching in cities around the world. Dr. Lawson is also a Teaching Fellow for Ligonier Ministries, where he serves on its board. Moreover, he is Professor of Preaching and

EPI-CENTER WORKSHOPS

Workshops are shorter intensive seminars usually lasting from 2-6 hours covering various preaching topics led by Rephidim. These workshops can be either a good jump start on preaching for those with limited training or a refresher for those who have studied homiletics in the classroom previously. If you would like to host a workshop at your church, please contact The Rephidim Project, and we will work to implement and promote the workshop. Below is a sample list of workshop topics we can provide.



David Christensen (Th.M., D.Min.) is the founder and president of The Rephidim Project, a ministry devoted to Bible exposition and expository preaching. In 1984, he became the Homiletics Professor at newly formed New England Bible College where he served in various capacities for over 30 years. In 1990, David also became pastor of Galilee Baptist Church in Gorham, Maine retiring in 2018 after 28 years of ministry. His preaching at the church focused on the sequential exposition of Bible books as the best way to feed people with the whole counsel of God's Word (Acts 20:27). He is the author of four books and has taught expository preaching classes for pastors in Ireland, Ukraine, and Panama. David has been involved in dual ministry as a pastor and professor for over 30 years. This combination of teaching and pastoring meshes deep study with practical application in ways that have prepared him for his current ministry at The Rephidim Project.

AVAILABLE WORKSHOP TOPICS

1. Hermeneutics: The Foundation for Homiletics
2. Preaching Through the Upper Room Discourse
3. The Bones of a Sermon: Structural Analysis of the Biblical Text
4. Preaching with Purpose
5. Framing the Message: Sticky Notes for Daily Life
6. So What? Contemporary Life Parallels
7. Bringing It Home: Introduction and Conclusion
8. Sermon Delivery: Tips and Topics
9. Topical Expository Preaching
10. Greek Tools for Sermon Preparation
11. Hebrew Tools for Sermon Preparation
12. Preaching from the Old Testament
13. Preaching from Poetry
14. Healthy Pastoral Persuasion

NEXT STEPS

Are you interested in helping launch an Institute or workshop in your area?

Here's how:

1. Share the EPI-Center information packet with pastors and preachers you gather together with regularly. Also, direct them to our website at www.rephidimproject.org
2. Determine the interest level and availability for attending a one or two-day Institute. We usually like to see about 30-50 attending an Institute. Workshops only need about 10-20.
3. Assess the level of preaching expertise among the group ensuring the best choice of EPI-Center instructor for your participants. Please use the Pre-Institute questionnaire provided in this packet.
4. From your assessment, we will make several recommendations for you. If you have a suggestion of someone who could teach, please let us know and we will try to accommodate your request.
5. We will then work with you to schedule an institute or workshop at a time that best fits your group.

We help you plan and promote the institute or workshop to achieve success!

Contact us at:

David Christensen 207-632-2885

Expository Preaching Institute Center – Pre-Institute Questionnaire

General Location: _____ Possible Dates: _____

I am a: pastor lay leader youth leader student other

Are you: full time bi-vocational

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Mobile phone _____

Church name _____

Church address _____

How long have you been preaching? _____

Have you had formal training in preaching? _____

If so, where? _____

Would you call yourself an expository preacher? Yes _____ No _____ Not sure _____

Would you be interested in attending an Institute? Yes _____ No _____ Not sure _____

For More Information go to www.rephidimproject.org

REGIONAL COORDINATORS FOR REPHIDIM

Regional Coordinators should be well-recognized tenured pastors with strong leadership abilities. They are pastor-gatherers who are already involved with many pastors in their areas, and they should be committed to Expository Preaching. Under the direction and consultation with the Rephidim Project, these men shall provide oversight institutes, workshops and cohorts meeting in their area.

- a. They will confirm, advertise, promote, and be responsible for the regional Expository Preaching Institute event registration procedure.
- b. They will assess the level of preaching expertise of preachers interested in attending an Institute. This will help in the selection of an instructor for the Institute event.
- c. They will select and qualify an appropriate number of Cohort Team Leaders to accommodate the number registered prior to the Institute event.
- d. Before the close of the Expository Preaching Institute event, the Coordinator and Cohort team Leaders will determine suggested members to make up each cohort.
- e. Training helps, tools and encouragement will be provided through the Regional Coordinators who are expected to be in contact with the Cohort Team Leaders on a regular basis.
- f. Though the Regional Coordinator's primary role is that of management of the Expository Preaching Institute and establishment of the Cohort Team Leaders, he may want to serve additionally as a Cohort Team Leader himself.