

# CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	7
<b>Part 1: The Call to Preach Is the Call to Prepare</b>	<b>9</b>
1. Get Yourself Ready	11
2. The Call	15
3. Truths about Preaching	19
<b>Part 2: What to Say</b>	<b>33</b>
4. Know your Lenses and Limitations	35
<i>Sample Sermon: Shameless, by Albert Hung</i>	48
5. Tools for Engaging the Text: Asking the Right Questions	59
6. Tools for Engaging the Text: Initial Observations	65
7. Tools for Engaging the Text: Genre	69
8. Tools for Engaging the Text: Image of God	75
<i>Sample Sermon: Overhearing the Regret of God, by Dan Boone</i>	78
9. Tools for Engaging the Text: Universals in Human Experience	83
<i>Sample Sermon: The Hope of Despair, by Shawna Songer Gaines</i>	87
10. Tools for Engaging the Text: Bad News	93
<i>Sample Sermon: A Communal Call to Parenting, by Robert Breddin</i>	97
11. Tools for Engaging the Text: Good News	101
<i>Sample Sermon: Bring It In, by Steve Estep</i>	104
12. Tools for Engaging the Text: Points of View	109
<i>Sample Sermon: Here's Lookin' at You, by Jeremy Byler</i>	111
13. Tools for Engaging the Text: Desired Response	121

	<i>Sample Sermon: Go, Tell Everyone This Great News,</i> <i>by Dwayne Adams</i>	<b>124</b>
14.	Tools for Engaging the Text: Congregational Blocks <i>Sample Sermon: The Principal's Office, by Nancy Cantrell</i>	<b>129</b> <b>132</b>
15.	Tools for Engaging the Text: Engaging the Senses	<b>139</b>
16.	Tools for Engaging the Text: Possible Directions	<b>143</b>
17.	Sermon Purpose	<b>149</b>
18.	Consulting the Scholars <i>Sample Sermon: Sozo, by Steve Estep</i>	<b>153</b> <b>160</b>
19.	Consider the Context <i>Sample Sermon: Love Must Be Given Away,</i> <i>by Tim Whetstone</i>	<b>165</b> <b>172</b>
20.	Including Other Voices <i>Sample Sermon: The Active Mission of Jesus,</i> <i>by Mike Jackson</i>	<b>177</b> <b>179</b>
21.	Long-Range Planning	<b>183</b>
	Afterword	<b>191</b>