



Biblical Preaching

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Timothy Leadership Training Institute
www.tlti.org

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Introduction

The manual Biblical Preaching is part of the second level of TLTI training. Through this manual you will explore the ministry of preaching and develop skills to engage in this ministry faithfully and effectively.

Even if you do not preach regularly in the context of Sunday worship, you will find the training useful. Whether you are a young or more mature Christian, it will enable you to better understand and communicate the central Gospel message of Scripture. As such, the training will also enrich your personal Bible reading and group Bible study, as well as the Bible messages you prepare and give in different contexts.

Throughout Church history, Scripture texts have sometimes been misused to communicate messages that are **not** faithful to the Gospel. Think, for example, of all the harm that can be done if someone preaches a text on Matthew 5:29 without explaining carefully Christ's intent in saying these words: *If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away!* This manual is intended to prevent errors in interpretation of Scripture. Even more, it will enable you to build up your listeners in the Christian faith.

Working through this manual, you will:

- Interact with Scripture and your co-participants to better understand God's call to proclaim the Gospel message.
- Become familiar with the Three Keys of Biblical Preaching and develop skills to:
 1. choose an appropriate text for a Biblical message.
 2. identify God's Good News in a text.
 3. cultivate attitudes and actions of gratitude, trust and obedience in the lives of listeners.
- Practice different ways to organize sermons and other messages.
- Practice what is learned through Kingdom oriented action plans related to preaching.
- Continue to develop skills as a TLT facilitator and receive feedback on that ability.
- Pursue or initiate 1st level TLTI training in your local setting.

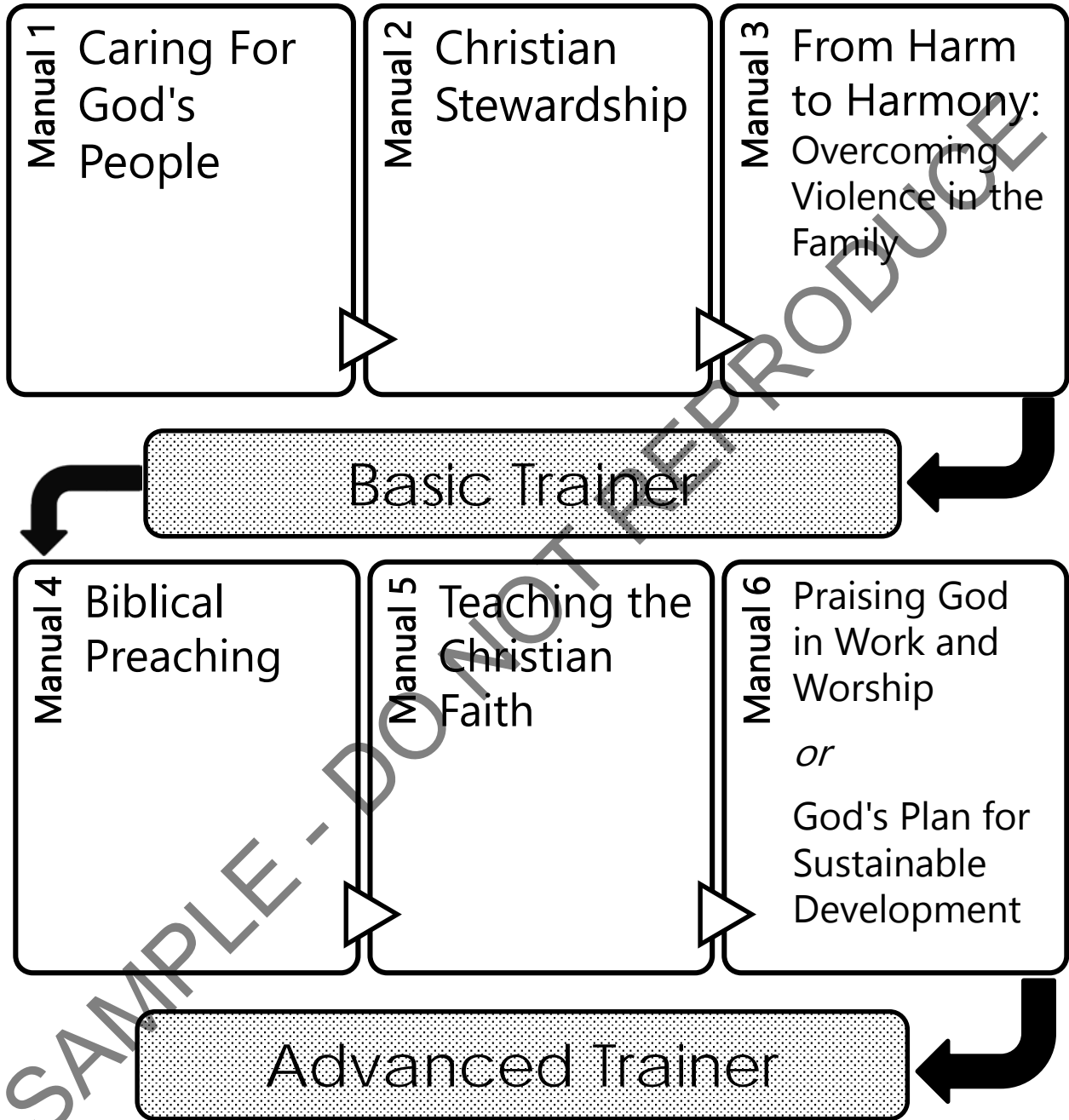
As you study this manual, think of those who you may train to use it in your local church or elsewhere. Ask yourself the question, "Who else in my church can be used by God to prepare and give Biblical messages?" Whether you are a pastor, evangelist or lay leader, this manual will provide you with a tool to train others on many different levels: parents, Sunday school teachers, youth group leaders, elders and deacons. In your group, discuss how God can use you to train others, even those from other churches or from outside your area.

Before working through this manual in your group, we encourage you, once again, to briefly review Lesson 1 of the manual Caring for God's People: *Great Things with God*. We are confident that God can continue to bring significant Kingdom changes to your church and your community through this training.



Timothy Leadership Training Certification

This is the path for Basic and Advanced Trainer certification by Timothy Leadership Training Institute.



*Note: to receive an official TLTI certificate you must be trained by a TLTI certified trainer following standard guidelines. Trainers report trainings and request certificates through reporting@tlti.org.



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Participant Testimonies

The following testimonies come from participants around the world. More such testimonies are available on the Timothy Leadership Training website.

ASIA

India

I started preaching using the Three Keys, which was a first in my church. Before, preachers preached but never for results. With vertical preaching, the average attendance increased by 80% and tithes increased by 30%.

Philippines

One pastor testifies that his preaching has changed much after learning the Three Keys of Biblical Preaching. He is now more confident that he is preaching God's Word and not his own ideas. His congregation is growing in response to God's Word and work in their lives. Many are responding to the call to disciple others.

AFRICA

Kenya

After preaching using the Three Keys, people are complimenting my preaching. Other people have joined my church just because of my preaching, as they later say. I have also noticed that members are able to remember a sermon long after it was delivered.

AMERICAS

Bolivia

One pastor mentioned that it seems his members read the Word better on their own, as they now seem better equipped to apply what they read after following the sermon methodology.

Colombia

I have received many preaching courses in the past. All have taught me to use many verses and hop all around the Bible. That is what I have done to the point that people were often lost in trying to follow my preaching. I also have been preaching poorly for 18 years as I have generally been "horizontal." TLT is transformational! It is also true and biblical. I can tell; this is the correct way to preach. Thank you so much. This was the best training I have ever received.

United States

Through Biblical Preaching, 75% of my church members have become more skilled listeners. Using a form, I ask, "What is the theme? Do you hear the gospel in sermons? How does God want you to respond?" I am charting responses and percentages until 100% of church members are answering the questions. I also give visitors a sheet explaining what to listen for in sermons.



Reminder to TLT Trainers

Lesson Procedure

TLT lessons follow 4 steps:

- 1) **Report** - At the beginning of each lesson (except for the 1st lesson) each participant presents the report of what was accomplished since the last lesson.
- 2) **Reflect, discover, and discuss** - Then, participants read Scripture and discuss together the related questions. It is often helpful to read the Bible texts in their context. Group discussion trains participants to listen carefully to each other and to present their ideas clearly.
- 3) **Plan** - Participants write a plan to put into practice what they have learned. They report on that plan at the beginning of the following lesson.
- 4) **Pray** - At the end of each lesson, participants commit their plans to God.

TLT training is for those who are prepared to make plans, to put their plans into action between the lessons, and then report on them during the next lesson. Most TLT learning takes place between the lessons as participants work their plans.

Inductive training

TLT training is not like classroom teaching when the teacher stands up in front of the class and talks while students listen and take notes. TLT training is interactive and *inductive*. *Inductive* means that during a lesson participants talk more than the trainer. An inductive trainer asks good questions and then gives participants time to reflect and discuss. A TLT trainer is like a good mathematics teacher who gives the class a problem to solve ... and then leaves the students **time to reflect** to find the answer instead of just giving them the solution!

Participants in TLT training discover new ideas and practices through their **own** reflection and discussion. And then they use what is learned to formulate and accomplish their **own** action plans for Kingdom change.

When you begin TLT training, you may find it difficult to teach in an inductive way. You may be talking more than other participants during a lesson. In that case, you must work to develop a more *inductive* style. It is often helpful to break into smaller groups so that each participant can reflect and discuss what is being learned.

A good trainer has already put into practice what is taught in the manuals and can tell how TLT brings change in the church and community. Good trainers also show that each participant is a valued member of the group and provide individual encouragement and assistance, even between training sessions.

Reminder: The last two lessons, the 4-6 Month Action Plan and its Report, are very important and should not be skipped!



LESSON 1

Preachers and Preaching

1. Preaching is important - Romans 10:14, 1 Corinthians 1:18, Psalm 119:105

Why is it important to preach?

What are other words for “preaching” and “to preach”?

2. Preachers in the Bible

Name two or three preachers from each the Old and New Testaments (other than Jesus). What were their “qualities” or “strong points”?

3. The Qualities of a Good Preacher

What different images does Paul use in each of the following texts to describe those who proclaim the Gospel? What is the particular quality of a good preacher related to each image?

- **1 Corinthians 4:1-2**
- **1 Thessalonians 2:7-8**
- **Ephesians 6:19-20**
- **2 Corinthians 4:5, 7**
- **2 Corinthians 5:20**

Write down one of these qualities that you would like to develop. What will you do next week to develop this quality as you prepare to preach? Share your plan with another participant or in a small group of three. Pray for each other.

4. Gospel preaching - 2 Timothy 4:2, Isaiah 61:1-2, Acts 5:42 (see also: Luke 4:18-19, Mark 16:15)

What is the good news that we preach?

*Explain how the whole Bible is good news. **2 Timothy 3:16-17***

How are the words of Jesus, “If you love me, you will obey what I command” (John 14:15) part of the good news?

*Explain how the rules for Christian living in **Colossians 3:8-17** are good news.*

*What are false gospels? **Galatians 1:11-12***

5. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in preaching? **John 14:26**

The Holy Spirit guides us in many ways in our preaching ministry. For example:

- While we study the Bible
- While we pray (see **James 1:5**)

At what other times does the Holy Spirit guide us in our preaching ministry?



6. MY PLAN

Preaching is like sowing seed. We do not see all the results immediately. But, just as a good farmer can observe the progression of growth in good soil, good preachers learn to observe the results of their preaching week by week.

Take some time to remember your 4-6 month Action Plans for the 3 manuals: Caring for God's People, Christian Stewardship and From Harm to Harmony: Overcoming Violence in the Family. Is one of these Action Plans still relevant to your church or community?

Examples:

- A need related to the manual Caring, for example in the area of reconciliation.
- A need related to the manual Stewardship, for example in an area of the 7 Ts.
- A need related to an area of family living presented in the manual From Harm to Harmony.

Activity: Identify one need or problem that your church or community is facing, and share it with another participant or in a small group of three. Plan to prepare several messages related to this need after you have worked through this manual.

Goal for Kingdom Change: Write the Kingdom Change that you expect to happen in your church or community as the need or problem you indicated above is overcome, by God's grace, in the coming months. This Goal for Kingdom Change can be from one of your previous 4-6 month Action Plans if it has not yet been fully accomplished. You will return to this **Goal for Kingdom Change** throughout this manual.

7. At the end of the lesson, share your plan with another person and pray together.

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