



Community Group Discussion Guide

Thing That You Do: Preaching – Weekend of January 26 & 27, 2019

I. Starter Question:

Simple question: Think of a past sermon or message that has stuck with you. What made it so memorable?

Vulnerable question: How has the Lord used the preaching of the Word to affect your life? Is there one man who sticks out as the sharpener of your spiritual soul from the pulpit through the years?

II. Discussion of Scripture:

Context: Last week we discussed the importance of prayer. We talked about the merits of praying and the role of prayer within the church – that it would bring us to a place of unity with God and his Word, that it would humble us to think of others before ourselves, and that it would spur us on to action. Talk to your group and ask them what they remember from last week. Ask how their prayer lives have been spurred on this week.

2 Timothy 4:1-5 (ESV) - Preach the Word

¹I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:²preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. ⁵As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Brief Explanation: This passage captures the end of Paul's exhortation of Timothy as a young pastor. His charge highlights the necessity of preaching within the church and a warning against false teaching that only exists to suit our sinful passions. Paul also seeks to remind Timothy the importance of working to please the Lord instead of appeasing the fear of man.

In this discussion, we will be evaluating the reason for preaching, how we as a congregation should respond to our pastors, and some application for the coming week regarding our relationship to the church and to non-Christians.

For Discussion:

1. What are the merits to hearing the Gospel preached over and over? Why is private study or reading devotionals not fully sufficient for our spiritual walk?
2. Is there a wrong way to preach the Gospel? How would you respond to someone that claims every word from the pulpit is ordained by God and therefore trustworthy?
3. How do we see “itching ears” play out in our culture? What are the consequences? Where do you see this play out in our society?
4. Have you ever had difficulty submitting to the teaching of a sermon before? What areas of your life do your desires tend to take precedence over God’s word?
5. Where else in the Bible is preaching talked about? (1Cor. 9:16; Romans 10:15; Mark 16:15; Luke 4:18; Matt. 4:17)
6. Have someone read Acts 10:34-43. What stands out in this section to you? How does the Cross motivate us to preach the Word?
7. If we are to be prepared “in season and out of season” (vs. 2), how do you reconcile this with Luke 12:11-12? Should we seek to prepare a defense for what we believe or simply allow the Holy Spirit to speak?
8. What are some ways we can apply this sermon this week?

III. Responding in Prayer:

1. Pray for our pastoral staff. Pray that they would be empowered by the Gospel to preach the Word faithfully and consistently. Pray that they would be encouraged by us as a congregation and that the lost would be saved through their efforts.
2. Pray for us as a congregation. Pray that we would not take our church attendance lightly and would thoughtfully consider the sermons for accuracy and quality. Pray that we would not inherently believe everything we’re told as truth but would pray through it and use it to spur on our own personal growth.
3. Pray for non-Christians in our community. Pray for the lost in your neighborhood, at work or in school settings, that they would be open to hearing the Gospel preached. Pray that God places you in situations to preach the Word publicly through your testimony of what God has done in your life.

Mission / Vision / Values of Henderson Hills Baptist Church

Our Mission:

Love God. Love People. Make Disciples.

Our Vision:

Our vision is to become a diverse family of surrendered and transformed people who passionately love God and others. We endeavor to be a body that is overcome by the reality that this life is not about us, but all about the glory of God. We want to be transfixed by the gospel of Jesus Christ and compelled by His heart for our world. We strive to be seed-throwers and fire-starters, hope-announcers and grace-givers, risk-takers and constant-reformers, lifelong-learners and sold-out doers. We desire to be a people who gladly give our lives to free the captive, strengthen the weak, embrace the outcast, and seek out the lost. Because Scripture is our authority, we strive to be a family that serves together, studies the Word together, plays together, worships together, and lives life together. By God's grace our world will be changed because we are here.

Our Values:

1. Glorifying God:

We value the passionate pursuit of knowing God and walking with Him.

2. Submitting to the Authority of Scripture:

We value the sufficiency of Scripture in every aspect of our lives.

3. Living the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

We value sharing the Gospel and making disciples.

4. Serving with a Kingdom Perspective:

We value living our lives focused upon what will matter most for eternity.

5. Cherishing the Local Church:

We value the essential role of the church in the sanctification of the believer and salvation of the nations.

6. Doing Life Together in a Christ-Centered Community:

We value that God uniquely uses personal relationships to sanctify and sharpen believers.