

# Sunday Sermon Preparation Guide

*This study guide is intended to help you study the **text** for the **upcoming Sunday's sermon**.*

## **Day 1 - Read the Text**

Read the text at least 3 times. Write down any thoughts you have about what you read. What did you like, what did you not like, what did you not understand, etc.? The goal today is to get familiar with the text.

## **Day 2 - Investigate the Text**

Asking good questions is a key to effective Bible study. Basic investigative questions include *Who? What? When? Where? Why? And How?* Read the text at least twice and use the basic investigative questions to make observations. Here are a few ideas to get started:

- Who is talking?
- Whom is he or she addressing?
- Where and when is this taking place?
- What is the most important term or concept?
- What are the main verbs? What are the tenses of those verbs?
- What terms are emphasized, repeated, or related?
- Are there significant contrasts?
- Are there terms you need to define further?
- Are there people, places or events that you need to identify?

### **Day 3 - Check out the Context**

We typically get a better understanding of the text by reading the chapters and verses surrounding it. Read the chapter before and after this week's text. How does this context help you better understand our text?

### **Day 4 - Consult Resources**

Read the text a few more times. Consult at least 2 other Bible study resources to gain further insight into our text. These include study Bibles, commentaries, Bible dictionaries, Bible study guides and sermons.

*(General Bible Study Resources)*

- ESV Bible app; Faithlife Study Bible app; Youversion app
- Biblegateway.org, Blueletterbible.org
- Logos Bible Software and app (Logos.com)
- The ESV Study Bible
- Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary
- The New Bible Commentary *(a great whole-Bible commentary)*

*(Gospel of John Specific Resources)*

- Pillar New Testament Commentary: John by D.A. Carson
- Encountering John by Andreas Kostenberger
- MacArthur New Testament Commentary: John vol 1&2
- Holman New Testament Commentary: John

How did this research further your understanding of the text?

## **Day 5—Respond**

**Read** the text one more time.

**Reflect** – Spend some time thinking about the text and the lessons God taught you this week.

**Respond** – How is God asking you to think, feel, and/or act differently as a result of what you have studied?

### **That's Not All...**

Try to get in a group where you can share your insights and process the text together. We believe life changing Bible study is best pursued in Christian community.