



Planning My Teaching for Life-Changing Impact

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Seven Philosophical Foundations of Life Transforming Worship

W _____ **a team.**

“Never plan worship alone.”

O _____ **your preaching calendar.**

“The message (and message series) drives everything.”

R _____ **is the goal of worship.**

“Repentance is the deepest kind of worship.”

S _____ **matters.**

“Must Love Sundays!”

H _____ God through excellence.

“Excellence: Doing the best you can with what God's given you.”

I _____ people to take Next Steps.

“Know. Feel. Do.”

P _____ honors God.

“Whenever there is slack there is lack.”

*“We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps.”
– Proverbs 16:9 (NLT)*

“Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.” – Proverbs 21:5 (NLT)

Planning my Preaching Calendar

Why Plan a Preaching Calendar?

- Planning allows for _____.
Without an intentional plan to balance the five purposes in your preaching, you will preach primarily on the purpose you are most passionate about.
- Planning allows for _____.
It's very hard to be creative at the last minute.
- Planning allows for _____ in my preaching.
Depth in preaching comes from advance study and preparation.
- Planning allows for the Holy Spirit to work in advance as well as the day of.
- Planning allows for _____.
Planning my preaching calendar means organizing my sermon series' in a way that brings about maximum life change.

3 Types of Message Series

Attraction

High Felt Need

Topics are attractive to churched and unchurched

Growth

High Commitment

Topics are focused on helping attenders become more like Jesus Christ

Balance

Important Issues

Topics are designed to mature believers and inform unbelievers

Note: The best sermon series are four to six weeks

Preaching Calendar Example:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Worship Purpose</u>	<u>Key Words</u>
January	Balance/Growth	Core Values
February	Attraction	Felt Needs
March	Growth	Maturity
Easter*/April	Attraction	Life Application
May	Growth/Balance	Depth
June/July	Attraction/Growth	Stand Alone
August	Balance	Issue related
September	Growth	Renewal
October/November	Attraction/Growth	Spiritual Adventure
December	Balance/Growth	Inspiration

* Always start a new series on Easter.

PREACHING CALENDAR PLANNING TIPS

- Schedule a yearly time away to work on your preaching calendar
- _____ before and/or during your planning time
- Bring a regular calendar with _____ and a school calendar
- Bring Attendance trends from the previous two years
- Re-listen to Planning A One Year Preaching Calendar (For a free copy, email info@churchleaderinsights with "Wonder Conference" in subject line)
- Plan as a team
- Brainstorm key series topics or issues
- Outline key start and end dates for each series (be sure to include guest speakers, holidays and stand alone dates)
- Focus on February and October series titles/start dates first

- Remember the September trio: 1- Evangelism 2- Ministry 3- Stewardship
- Keep all _____ for the future
- Don't worry if there are gaps
- Don't forget to schedule in the times you will be away
(See "Developing A One Year Personal Growth Plan" Audio Resource)
- Set aside the draft calendar for a couple of weeks and revisit
- Revisit the Calendar as often as needed to stay 2 – 3 months ahead
- _____ to interrupt your calendar!

My Next Steps:

Appendix

A SERIES PLANNING TIME LINE

Before the Start of a Series

- 4-10 months out – Series Idea/Title
- 1 month out – Message Titles and Series Themes Set
- 1 month out –Begin collecting creative elements for series based on message
titles and themes
- 3 weeks out – Creative Planning Meeting – creative ideas for the series shared and organized
- 10 days out – Series Specific Staging/Props ready for testing

Series Begins

A SUNDAY PLANNING TIME LINE

Before a Specific Sunday

- 3 weeks out – Message Research Team Research Due
- 2 weeks out – Specific Music and Creative Elements Planned
- 2 weeks out – 1st Draft of Message Notes from Teaching Pastor in Worship Planning Meeting
- 2 weeks out – 1st Draft of Worship Order in Worship Planning Meeting
- 5 days out – Final Draft of Message Notes from Teaching Pastor in Worship Planning Meeting

- 5 days out – Final Draft of Worship Order and Creative Elements in Worship Planning Meeting; Specific prayer time for service
- 3 days out – Production Meeting Finalizing Worship Order and Elements of Service
- 3 days out – Final message manuscript completed; trial run of message
- 3 days out – Thursday Midnight Rule – everything finalized for Sunday

Sunday Service conducted

Nelson Searcy

Nelson Searcy is the founding and Lead Pastor of The Journey Church in New York City. The Journey is a multi-site, multicultural church with locations across New York City, including Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens. With the majority of its growth coming from new believers, The Journey has been recognized as one of the fastest-growing and most innovative churches in America by Outreach Magazine. Nelson is the author of numerous books and church growth resources as well as a coach, consultant and strategist for some of the fastest growing churches in America. His latest book is *Ignite: Sparking Immediate Growth in Your Church* (Baker Fall 2009). To learn more about Nelson's resources for Church Leaders visit www.ChurchLeaderInsights.com