



Pastor Dave Patterson
THE POWER OF CHURCH
Part 4: The Power of the Preached Word

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

[Acts 2.42]

*All the believers **devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals, and to prayer.***

[1 Corinthians 1.21]

*In God's wisdom, he determined that the world wouldn't come to know him through its own wisdom. Instead, God was pleased to save those who believe **through the foolishness of preaching.***

[Romans 1.16]

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel (Good news proclaimed) because it is **the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.***

[Romans 10.14]

*How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? **And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?***

[Acts 5.42]

And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: "Jesus is the Messiah."

[Acts 6.7]

*So **the word of God spread.** The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly.*

***Salvation comes when the Word of God is preached and taught!
If people don't hear it, they can't respond to it.***

[Acts 11.26]

*When he found him (Paul), he brought him back to Antioch. Both of them stayed there with the church for a full year, **teaching large crowds of people.***

[Acts 15.35]

*But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, where **they and many others taught and preached** the word of The Lord.*

[Acts 20.20]

*You know that **I have not hesitated to preach** anything that would be helpful to you but **have taught you publicly and from house to house.***

[2 Timothy 4.1-3, NLT]

*I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead when he appears to set up his Kingdom: **Preach the word of God.** Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.*

God releases power through the preached word of God. The Holy Spirit comes and moves when God's word is released on the earth. (illumination, wisdom, revelation)

Receiving the Preached Word:

1. Increases Our Faith

[Romans 10.17]

So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.

[Psalm 119.130, VOICE]

When Your words are unveiled, light shines forth; they bring understanding to the simple.

[Psalm 119.130, NLT]

The teaching of your Word brings light.

2. Trains and Equips us to do the will of God (maturity)

[Ephesians 4.12-13, MSG]

*God gave the church apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers **to train Christ's followers** in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ.*

***God has designed his church for equipping, in a local setting.
God meets with his people in his house.***

3. Releases the Power of the Holy Spirit

[Acts 10.33]

*Now we are all here, **waiting before God to hear the message** The Lord has given you.*

[Acts 10.44]

*...and as Peter was speaking **SUDDENLY** the Holy Spirit fell upon all of them.*

4. Breaks the power of deception and idolatry

True preaching and declaring the Word of God is not for information; it's for transformation.

[Acts 17.15-34]

Those escorting Paul went with him all the way to Athens; then they returned to Berea with instructions for Silas and Timothy to hurry and join him. While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply troubled by all the idols he saw everywhere in the city. He went to the synagogue to reason with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and he spoke daily in the public square to all who happened to be there. He also had a debate with some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. When he told them about Jesus and his resurrection, they said, "What's this babbler trying to say with these strange ideas he's picked up?" Others said, "He seems to be preaching about some foreign gods." Then they took him to the high council of the city. "Come and tell us about this new teaching," they said. "You are saying some rather strange things, and we want to know what it's all about." So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: "Men of Athens, I

*notice that you are very religious in every way, for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it: 'To an Unknown God.' This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the one I'm telling you about. "He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn't live in man-made temples, and human hands can't serve his needs--for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need. From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries. "His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him--though he is not far from any of us. For 'in him we live and move and exist.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' And since this is true, we shouldn't think of God as an idol designed by craftsman from gold or silver or stone. "God overlooked people's ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him. For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead." When they heard Paul speak about the resurrection of the dead, some laughed in contempt, but others said, "We want to hear more about this later." That ended Paul's discussion with them, **but some joined him and became believers.***

Truth is a spirit; it cuts through all false doctrine. It finds a place of connection and delivers from there. The Gospel is Good News, and it inevitably must confront bad stuff.

[Jeremiah 23.29, AMP]

Is not My word like fire says The Lord, and like a hammer that breaks in pieces the rock [of stubborn resistance]?

5. Brings lasting transformation

[Acts 2.37-41]

Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, and to your children, and even to the Gentiles--all who have been called by The Lord of our God." Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!" Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day--about 3,000 in all.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What are some ways that God speaks to His people?**
- **Why do you think the preached and taught word of God is the primary vehicle for God speaking to His people? What is unique about it? (salvation catalyst, faith-building, etc.)**
- **What does the Bible mean when it describes "the foolishness of preaching?" [1 Corinthians 1.21] How is strength found in that vulnerability?**
- **How does the preached word play a part in us growing up in our faith? In other words, how does it train and equip us?**

- **When was a time that God spoke to you prophetically through the preached word? How did that message influence that season of your life?**
- **Why do some people only get information out of preaching, while others receive transformation? What defines which one we receive?**
- **What is some lasting transformation that you've experienced because of the preached word?**