

HOW TO WRITE A SERMON USING CHATGPT'S HELP

Christian,

I'm really looking forward to having you preach this summer!!!

Here are 5 things I need you to do...

First, please read this article. Since this is your first time preaching on Sunday morning, I want you to adhere tightly to the structure I talk about in this article.

<https://seniorpastorcentral.com/4234/introduction-explanation-application-effective-way-write-sermons/>

Second, use the attached MS Word document to add your content for the sermon. After you preach 5 times, you can use any outline you want. Until then, I want you to practice the rhythm of this structure.

Third, **Christian**, I'll need your completed sermon sent to me by 11 a.m. Thursday, July 21st.

Fourth, your final sermon can be **no more** than 2,800 words total. Find images that will illustrate stories you tell. Feel free to make a joke at my expense. That always gets a laugh. And just be real, honest, and engaging. **A listener's attention is like a beach ball that you have to keep in the air for 30 minutes. Every time you do something to re-engage them, the ball gets punched back up into the air.** So make sure there are 7-8 points in the message where you switch the speed, use a prop, step from behind the lectern, go to the screen, show an image, show a clip, make a joke, get serious, ask them a question, etc. – all things to switch up the energy in the room and “punch the ball back up into the air.” Do not ignore this. You can have great content and put people to sleep. Been there, done that. Constantly engaging them keeps them guessing about what's coming next.

Fifth, since you don't have an extensive library to draw from for research purposes, **below is a ChatGPT prompt** I've written for our staff to give them a foundation of research to garner insights for developing their message. I'd like for you to use it. See below.

My suggestion is that you: 1. Do a 15-minute brainstorm about everything you know about the passage and why it is meaningful to you. 2. Do the ChatGPT prompt 3. Take the material you have and the material Chat GPT gives you and insert into the SERMON TEMPLATE. 4. Take a break 5. Come back and revisit the material and rewrite it. 6. Insert each of the three sections - Introduction, Explanation, and Application into ChatGPT ONE AT A TIME (it can only produce 800 words-ish at a time. Give it this prompt: “Assume the identity of Andy Stanley and take my words and reorder and rework them and make them flow better for more clarity and impact. Do that each section at a time. Then compile the message. 7. Don't look at it for two full days. 8. Come back to it and preach it to yourself and rewrite as you are talking. 9. Send it to me. 10. Then we'll talk about how to make it stronger!

Reach out with questions any time! You got this!

Brian

Sermon Research Prompt (Clarity-Enhanced Version)

Text:

(Insert your Bible passage here.) This is the passage I will preach from.

Request:

Create **3 unique, 2,000-word sermons** from this passage using the **Introduction, Explanation, Application** structure (IEA). Each sermon should have its own theme, angle, and application while drawing from the same passage. Final delivery will cap at 3,000 words max.

Assume the Role:

Write as a master sermon researcher (e.g., Kyle Idleman, Andy Stanley), blending pastoral depth and storytelling with theological clarity. Use the IEA format championed by Brian Jones to find the most urgent, transformative material.

SERMON OUTLINE

1. Introduction (10 minutes)

- **Jab 1:** Start with a modern story, cultural moment, or psychological insight tied to the passage's urgency or theme.
- **Jab 2:** Build with a powerful quote (Christian classic, psychological insight, etc.) that deepens tension.
- **Jab 3:** Transition into the main problem or big idea.
- **Right Hook:** End with this format:
"Turn in your Bibles to [passage]. We're in a series called [series name], and what we're trying to do is [main argument]."

2. Explanation (10 minutes)

- Read the full passage (NIV) aloud.
- Provide:
 - **Historical context** (100 years before writing, author's situation, audience's worldview)
 - **Literary context** (how this fits into the book's overall message)
 - **2 correlating Bible passages** (OT & NT)
 - **2 scholarly quotes**
 - **2 Christian author quotes** from:
Platt, Chan, Idleman, Lewis, Chesterton, Kierkegaard, Willard, Chambers, Trueblood, Nee, Peterson, Bonhoeffer

Use 3 "Nuggets"

Each starts with: *"I want you to notice this..."*

Each nugget should:

- Highlight a distinct theme from the **whole passage** (not just a single verse)
- Include supporting Scripture, scholars, and contextual explanation
- End with a classic Christian quote

3. Application (10 minutes)

- Start with: *"Here's the step I believe this passage is calling us to take..."*
- Share a story from **Christian history** where someone lived out the action step
- Share **3 modern application stories** (target: suburban Philly audience, across demographics)
- End with a bold, declarative final line that leaves a lasting impact

DELIVERY DETAILS

- Each sermon must feel distinct in theme and tone.
- Provide **3 creative sermon title options** for each.
- Tone: Reflective, simple, thought-provoking (think Life.Church + Steve Jobs).
- Closing: Bold. Memorable. Prophetic.