



- **What is The Pathway to Prayer?**

The Pathway to Prayer is a multi-church devotional journey led by pastors to direct the people of God to the heart of God.

- **What is a Devotional?**

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. (James 4:8, NKJ)

Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. (Psalm 37:4, NKJ)

A devotional is a simple, concise, word of encouragement. Devotionals direct the heart and mind toward God. They meet people where they are by connecting Scripture to real life experiences and needs. Devotionals are not sermons and generally have one point.

- **What A Good Devotional Might Look Like**

For this project, a morning devotional should be around 500 words and an evening devotional should be 250-300 words.

- Main Scripture

- Illustration

- Application/Act (call to action; one action step!)

- Power Point (key takeaway)

Think (1 or 2 quotes)

Reflect (3-4 questions)

Supporting Scripture (2-3)

Prayer

Fix My Prayer Life (a solution to the most common hindrances to prayer)

The evening devotionals will end with writing prompts reflecting prayers of adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, supplication, and intercession.

▪ **Turning A Sermon into a Devotional**

1. Identify the point and get to it!
2. Explain the Scripture/story in a concise, succinct yet compelling manner.
3. Offer a "fresh", unique way of connecting the Scripture to a human need or experience. [Make the story the reader's story!]
4. Provide a hook!

A profound lead or persuasive anecdote to grab and hold the attention of the reader

5. Tell the people what they NEED to know in a dynamic way.
6. Paint the "picture" – turn ears into eyes!
7. Avoid blind spots.

Inferences or thoughts that create unnecessary tension or may distort the message (i.e. racial, political, social, rational assumptions)

8. Point out the next step (issue a call to action).

An attitude to change

A perspective to adopt

A sin to confess

A conflict to resolve

An example to follow

An act to perform

A mistake to prevent

A command to obey

A truth to embrace

A promise to claim

9. Write tight!

Don't count words; make words count!

Editors continually tell us writers that we need to learn how to 'write tight.' What exactly does that phrase mean? How can authors like ourselves learn the craft of tight writing?¹

10. K.I.S.S. – Keep it simple Sir!

■ ILLUSTRATIONS – Painting the Picture

1. Websites, our oral tradition, and books of sermon illustrations are not good sources of illustrations.
2. It is critical to verify information before using it.
People fact-check your information – *while you are preaching!*
3. An illustration should never overpower the text of the point of the message.
4. Illustrations by nature are metaphorical; thus, clichés should be limited.
5. Using the same style and types of illustrations is as detrimental as using the same illustrations.

[The preacher becomes predictable and monochromatic.]

■ Our Timeline

September 16	Initial Pastor's Information Session
September 20	Submission of Potential Material
September 23/24	Writing Seminar
October 1	Penultimate Submission
October 1-15	Editorial Work
October 16-31	Design and Formatting
November 5	FINAL REVIEW
November 10	Submit for Publishing
November 15-30	Pre-Order
December 30	Delivery
January 10-30	The Pathway to Prayer Devotional Journey
January 30	Victory Sunday

¹ <https://www.inspirewriters.com/how-to-write-tight/>