**CULTIVATING REVELATION**

## Four Essentials to Cultivating Revelation:

1. Adopting a shared philosophy of preaching
2. Mining scriptures
3. Forming a message
4. Creating an experience

## Adopting a Shared Philosophy of Preaching:

**POWER** – the power of preaching is that revelation (the revealed word of God) has the power to set people free from the grip of the world/enemy.

**PURPOSE** – the purpose of preaching is anchored in the “revelation” portion of the weekend experience, but should include all three elements of presence, revelation and breakthrough.

**THREE LEVERS** – great preaching touches the hearer’s head, heart and hands.

* HEAD – great preaching unfolds a revolutionary idea (illuminates our mind)
* HEART – great preaching unlocks a kingdom passion (ignites our hearts)
* HANDS – great preaching unleashes a new way to be human (invites a way of life)

**METHODOLOGY** – identify distinction in methodology.

* PREACHING – focused on imparting inspiration
* TEACHING – focused on conveying information
* DEVOTION – focused on cultivating invocation (we share a moment with God)

*Driving Questions:*

* + - 1. *What is my normal, default approach?*
			2. *Does my default approach match this assignment?*
			3. *How will I need to intentionally adjust my default approach?*
			4. *How does my contribution balance the overall series and approaches of others before and after me?*

## Mining Scriptures:

**TRANSLATION**

1. Translate from original language
	1. Repeated phrases
	2. Figures of speech
	3. Vocabulary
	4. Cultural context
2. Selection of an English translation
	1. Most pertinent to assignment and audience
	2. Most accurate to message

**OBSERVATION**

1. What do you see?
2. How is the point of the story framed by the author?
3. What is the background of the text?

**REVELATION**

1. Pray with God to show you his mind on the passage and the whole of scripture
2. What does God want to say through this message?

**INTERPRETATION**

1. What does this scripture mean?
2. What is the “big idea” present?

**APPLICATION**

1. Consider three groups of people:
	1. Unchurched – no church background or familiarity with scriptures

NEED: Connection

* 1. Cultural Christians – familiar with God, having a respect or reverence towards God but not a mature disciple

NEED: Context

* 1. Mature believers – know the word

NEED: Fresh content/revelation

1. How do the truths of these scriptures intersect with the real lives of your listeners?
2. What is the “good news” for them in this?
3. What do they need to “believe”?
4. Where do they need to “repent”?
5. Where is God’s “invitation” for them?

## Forming a Message:

**FOUNDATIONAL TEMPLATE**

1. What are the scriptures this sermon should be anchored in?
	1. Primary scripture?
	2. Support passages?
2. What is the “big idea”?
	1. What is it?
	2. Why is it meaningful?
	3. Why is it true?
	4. Why does it matter?
3. What is the chief concern?
	1. Why aren’t people already doing this OR why are they saying “no”?
4. What is God’s invitation?
	1. What does he want them to do?

**DEFAULT STRUCTURAL APPROACH**

1. Introduction
	1. Relationally establish rapport
	2. Topically raise the issue without resolving it
	3. Emotionally grab attention
2. Exploration
	1. Explore the scripture you are teaching
	2. Tell its story, context and interest
3. Main Point
	1. Anchor – scripture
	2. Idea – solution to tension
	3. Illustration – moves them from head to heart
	4. Imagination – building a bridge from heart to hands
	5. Invitation – hands
4. Conclusion
	1. Invocation – moment pregnant with presence of God
	2. Prayer – response to God’s presence

*Versus Traditional 3-Point Informational Approach:*

* *Instead, determine the flow that invites a journey of applying the revelation*
* *All should point to big take-away*
* *There is great variability as teacher grows and progresses*

**REVIEW** – mapping of sermons

* Interaction with head, heart, hands in actual minutes

## Creating an Experience:

**TONE**

1. Conversational
	1. Relational
	2. Informal
	3. Warm
2. Vibrant
	1. Enthusiastic
	2. Fun
	3. Passionate
3. Humble
	1. One of them
	2. With them, not down to them
	3. Replace “you” statements with “we” or “I” statements

**PHYSICAL ELEMENTS**

1. Clothes/appearance – 3 showstoppers that are avoided at The Chapel
	1. Flashy
	2. Formal
	3. Sexual
2. Posture, gestures, use of movements
3. Communicating independent of notes/staring at outline
4. Pulpit positioning, tables, chairs
5. Appropriate and effective use of props
6. Appropriate and engaging use/design of slides/imagery