

discipleship essentials

Essentials for Spiritual Leadership
Study Guide

PASTORAL BASICS

LESSON 2: THE PASTOR AS TEACHER

INTRODUCTION

This lesson is part of a Discipleship Essentials module titled Pastoral Basics. This module will be helpful for untrained leaders who are serving as pastors, for churches who are looking for a pastor, and for those pursuing a pastoral role. It will outline the many duties a pastor may have in a local church, and what church members should expect from their pastor. Some specific challenges are also included, such as ministry to different age groups as well as considerations for church growth.

The Study Guide is intended for an individual to look deeper into a specific lesson on their own. The lessons can be used in conjunction with other Discipleship Essentials materials, such as the video and audio productions found on www.discipleshipessentials.org.



PASTORAL BASICS

LESSON 2: THE PASTOR AS TEACHER

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

This lesson explores the pastor's role as a teacher through sermons, Bible studies, personal instruction, and other means.

JUST SO YOU KNOW...

This lesson describes the role of a pastor as the primary teacher and preacher within a local church. The pastor of a congregation is to teach them the Word of God. However, God equips and calls other gifted people within the local church to share in this teaching ministry as well. In fact, all Christians should teach others to some degree. While this lesson is only an introduction to the topic, it will help those entering or currently engaged in pastoral ministry to teach their people well. The best training for teaching and preaching is doing it. If you have the opportunity to lead a small Bible Study group, that will prepare you for preaching sermons. If you are going through this material with a group, an excellent exercise would be to practise teaching one another on topics you have studied as a practical extension of this lesson.

GETTING STARTED

1. Do you remember one particular sermon or teaching from God's Word? What was said, and by whom? Why has this message remained with you for so long?

2. If you had an hour of someone's time to teach them anything about the Christian life, what would you teach them, and how would you prepare to do so?



STUDY

- ❖ **THE SHEPHERD MUST FEED HIS SHEEP:** Within a local church, there may be many people with different gifts. Some people are gifted to be pastors (to shepherd the people of God), and some are gifted to teach or preach (to communicate the Word of God to the people). The role of teaching, often in the form of preaching a sermon during Sunday worship, is one of the primary tasks of the local pastor. It is merely one of many roles the shepherd of a church is responsible for, but because of its importance, is a topic worth careful examination.

- What task did Jesus give Peter? Read [John 21:15](#).

Jesus put much time and effort into training His disciples, knowing He would soon leave this world and they would be His representatives on earth. The Church would be young and vulnerable. Until the words of the New Testament were written down, the truths of Jesus were conveyed to people by the preaching and teaching of the Apostles. This lesson will explore exactly what spiritual food the people of God need.

- ❖ **WHY WE TEACH:** The pastor is responsible for teaching with authority. People may wonder what benefit there is in teaching the Bible to believers today, since most have access to the Word of God to read for themselves. The answer is that teaching and preaching are of great benefit; through them God speaks to us, convicts us, and brings about change within us. Pastors must be engaged in teaching and preaching because:

- **We are called to preach the Word:** Servants of God (especially those who have authority, such as the pastor) must be ready to present the truth of God to others.. Preaching the Word consists of declaring what is true, not merely our opinions. We explain the Bible with the knowledge God has given us.

When should we preach, and what does preaching accomplish? Read [2 Timothy 4:1-2](#) and write down your answer.

- **The Gospel is good news:** The word 'Gospel' means good news – and what good news it is! To tell people that there is a solution to their sin problem and deliverance from their evil and guilt is something to shout about! We teach and proclaim God's Word because it is good news ([Acts 8:35](#), [Acts 14:7](#)).
- **Faith comes through hearing:** What does the Word tell us in [Romans 10:14-17](#)? Why should we preach the Word even to those who have already received the Gospel?



- **All Scripture is useful for training in righteousness:** Every word of God, correctly understood in its context, is useful for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness. Pastors are called to teach their people the whole Word of God, so that individual believers are strengthened and equipped to take on ministry themselves. Multiplying leadership is a very powerful and effective means to grow the Kingdom of God. Those who are taught ought to go out and teach others (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

❖ **WHAT WE TEACH:** The Bible tells us that Jesus and His followers went out to teach and to preach.

Read Matthew 11:1. What does it say Jesus did after instructing the disciples? How do you think these two things are different? What do they have in common?

A pastor is a person with authority, and who should be engaged in teaching and preaching. Pastors should also equip others to do the same. But we must know what should be taught and preached. What is the distinction between teaching and preaching?

- **Teaching:** The goal of teaching is to inform the mind so that behaviour can change. This is always done with a measure of authority. This comes from having received truths through careful study of the Word, and then putting them into practice in order to model and instruct others. Teaching is often systematic, instructional, or in response to an invitation. There are specific things that the Bible indicates must be taught. Read the following sets of verses, and write down what is indicated:

Verses	What Must be Taught?
Matthew 5:19 Matthew 28:20	
Matthew 15:9 Titus 2:1	
Matthew 22:16 Luke 20:21	
John 7:16 Galatians 6:6	
Colossians 1:28 Colossians 3:16	



From these verses we see that teaching is instruction in the commands, doctrines, ways, words and wisdom of God as seen in Jesus Christ. A teacher is someone who has engaged in study of the Word in order to handle it correctly, putting into practice all that is learned so that they are worthy to teach others. A pastor should not teach earthly wisdom, personal opinion, but the truth of God only. Teaching should include explaining the Gospel, what it means to be a Christian, the difference between the Church and the world, Christian living and discipleship.

- **Preaching:** The goal of preaching is to declare or announce the Word of God. This is done with a sense of excitement or urgency, and is an act of worship for the preacher. Preaching is often passionate, affecting the heart and mind together. Some may describe preaching as proclaiming short important messages, which is different than long teaching sessions revealing the truths of God. The Bible indicates several specific statements to be preached. Read the following sets of verses and write down what you see.

Verses	What Must be Preached?
Matthew 4:17 Mark 1:5	
Matthew 11:5 Luke 3:18	
Acts 5:42 Romans 16:25	
Acts 14:7 Romans 1:15	

Preaching, then, should get the attention of the hearers and call for an immediate response from them. While preaching and teaching overlap somewhat, when there is a specific call to action (such as turning from our sin and believing that Jesus is the Christ), we call this preaching.

- **Teaching and Preaching that Honours God:** We must stay close to God through prayer and the study of His Word, asking Him to guide us in our preaching, so that what we say comes from our heart. We should be learning and putting into practice the essence of what we preach to others. Having the opportunity to guide others is a privilege and a gift (2 Timothy 2:15).

❖ HOW WE TEACH:

- **Formal Instruction:** Sermons are the primary means of formal instruction from the pastor to his congregation. A sermon requires careful preparation by reading, study, prayer, and meditation on God's Word. Reading books or using study aids, such as commentaries, can help. Some pastors benefit from writing out their entire sermon in



order to read it, and others use an outline method and write out the important points. Sermons usually take one of the following forms:

- o **Expository:** This involves explaining the Bible clearly and systematically. It often takes a verse by verse approach and may cover a book of the Bible over a period of time. Through exposition, a pastor will teach the meaning of a verse, its context, its connection to other passages of the Bible, and its application. Exposition teaches the congregation how to understand and study the Bible for themselves.

- In your opinion, what might be the benefits and the difficulties in using this method? What type of audience may it suit best?

- o **Textual:** This involves teaching on a specific topic from a particular section of the Bible; it often combines the best of expository and topical approaches. Two examples are the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5, and Heroes of the Faith in Hebrews 11. It examines how the text relates to other texts in the Bible.

- In your opinion, what might be the benefits and the difficulties in using this method? What type of audience may it suit best?

- o **Topical:** This involves choosing a topic of specific need or interest to the congregation, and using the Bible to support a particular position or thesis. It may involve sermons that build on one another, as in a series examining the characteristics of God, or what it means to follow Christ. Or it may involve single, unconnected sermons on a particular topic. Jesus and the Apostle Paul preached topical sermons, and the New Testament epistles are also topical in written format.

- In your opinion, what might be the benefits and the difficulties in using this method? What type of audience may it suit best?

- o **Narrative:** This involves presenting a Biblical passage as a story. While it usually involves storytelling, it could also use an illustration to emphasize the



Biblical truth (such as an object lesson or personal experience). Jesus taught in a narrative fashion when He spoke in parables, and when He used examples from real life to help people understand His message.

- In your opinion, what might be the benefits and the difficulties in using this method? What type of audience may it suit best?

- **Informal Instruction:** Pastors teach others through the life they live, their work, and the way they love others – not merely the words they say. What are some opportunities that a pastor has for informal instruction? How can informal instruction still be purposeful?

SUMMARY

- ❖ The role of a pastor includes teaching and preaching, often through sermons at worship gatherings but also at other times.
- ❖ We teach and preach the Bible because we are commanded to do so, even if people can read the Word for themselves. They can benefit from the declaration of truth by others.
- ❖ The Gospel is good news and increases our faith when we hear it. Even those who have embraced the Gospel should hear it again often.
- ❖ Even though teaching and preaching are separate, they are related.
- ❖ Pastors can teach through sermons. Sermon styles include expository, textual, topical and narrative.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What is your favourite preaching style to listen to? Expository, textual, topical or narrative? What style is best received by your church congregation?

2. What sermon do you feel your people need to hear right now? How could you go about preparing for a sermon like that?

3. What preparation is needed to preach a good sermon? Considering different teaching styles, how could you prepare a sermon using each one of them?