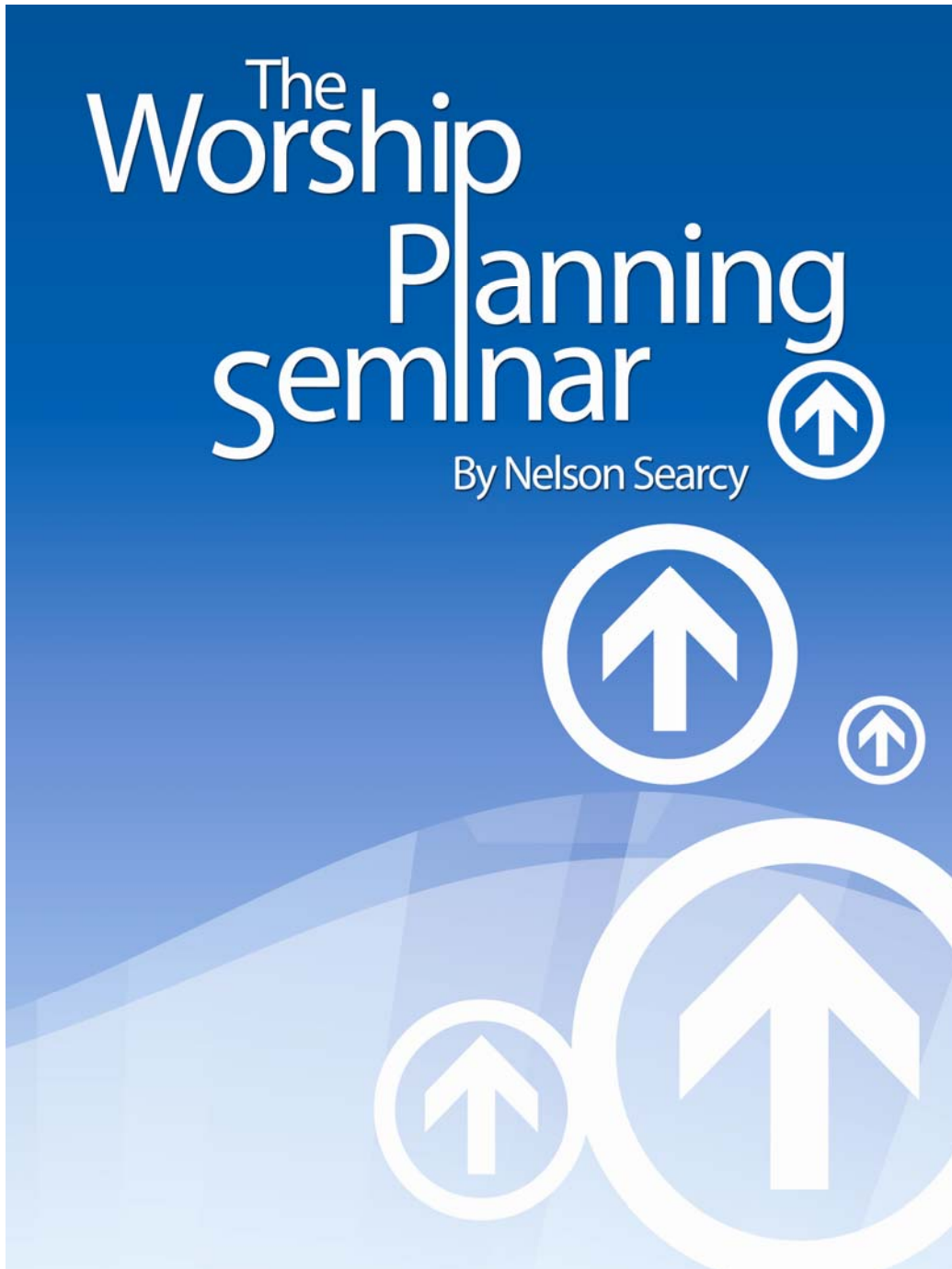


Journey Leadership Seminar



THE EIGHT SYSTEMS OF A CHURCH

THE EVANGELISM SYSTEM*

“How we attract people to our church”

THE _____ SYSTEM*

“How we plan, implement and evaluate the worship service(s) at our church”

THE ASSIMILATION SYSTEM*

“How we move people from first time guests to members at our church”

THE SMALL GROUPS SYSTEM*

“How we fill and reproduce small groups at our church.”

THE MINISTRY SYSTEM

“How we mobilize people for significant ministry at our church.”

THE STEWARDSHIP SYSTEM*

“How we develop extravagant givers at our church.”

THE LEADERSHIP SYSTEM

“How we develop leaders at all levels at our church.”

THE STRATEGY SYSTEM*

“How we constantly evaluate and improve our church”

The question: Are the systems of my church maximized?

“The systems of your church are giving you the result they have been designed to give you. If you want to change the results, change the system; in cooperation with the Holy Spirit”

*Denotes systems currently available on CD from Nelson Searcy. The Worship Planning Seminar is available for pre-purchase today or by calling 1-800-264-5129

Worship Planning: Planning, Implementing and Evaluating Our Worship Service(s)



And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. – Romans 12:1-2

MY GOALS FOR THIS SEMIAR:

This seminar focuses on:

- _____
- _____
- _____

The Worship Planning System is an on-going system that plans, implements and evaluates a church's weekly worship service.

FOUR AREAS OF AN EFFECTIVE WORSHIP PLANNING SYSTEM

1. _____

Philosophy is more important than style, music or worship elements

2. _____

The message drives the worship planning system

3. _____

Powerful worship services require prior planning

4. _____

Constant and Never Ending Improvement is the key to Excellence

I. Determine My Philosophy of Worship

“Philosophy is not a theory but an activity” – Ludwig Wittgenstein

Philosophy is the why behind what we do. It defines, motivates and serves as a measure for my worship services

What are five words that *currently* describe your worship services?

What are five words that *you would like* to describe your worship services?

7 Philosophical Foundations of Life Transforming Worship

W _____ a team.

“Never plan worship alone.”

O _____ your preaching calendar.

“The message (and message series) drives everything.”

R _____ is the goal of worship.

“Repentance is the deepest kind of worship.”

S _____ matters.

“Must Love Sundays!”

H _____ God through excellence.

“Excellence: Doing the best you can with what God’s given you.”

I _____ people to take Next Steps.

“Know. Feel. Do.”

P _____ honors God.

“Whenever there is slack there is lack.”

*“We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps.”
– Proverbs 16:9*

*“Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts
lead to poverty.” – Proverbs 21:5*

Homework: A Worship Philosophy Worksheet

Why do we hold services each Sunday?

What is the role of the Sunday Service in the life of our people?

How do we measure effectiveness of our Sunday Services?

If our church stopped holding Sunday Services would anyone other than the current attenders even notice?

Am I excited about the Sunday Services at my church?

When was the last time I did a theological study of Worship?

II. *Planning my Preaching Calendar*

Why Plan a Preaching Calendar?

- Planning allows for _____. Without an intentional plan to balance the five purposes in your preaching, you will preach primarily on the purpose you are most passionate about.
- Planning allows for _____. It's very hard to be creative at the last minute.
- Planning allows for _____ in my preaching. Depth in preaching comes from advance study and preparation.
- Planning allows for the Holy Spirit to work in advance as well as the day of.
- Planning allows for _____. Planning my preaching calendar means organizing my sermon series' in a way that brings about maximum life change.

3 Types of Message Series

Attraction

High Felt Need

Topics are attractive to churched and unchurched

Growth

High Commitment

Topics are focused on helping attenders become more like Jesus Christ

Balance

Important Issues

Topics are designed to mature believers and inform unbelievers

Note: The best sermon series are four to six weeks

Preaching Calendar Example:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Worship Purpose</u>	<u>Key Words</u>
January	Balance/Growth	Core Values
February	Attraction	Felt Needs
March	Growth	Maturity
Easter*/April	Attraction	Life Application
May	Growth/Balance	Depth
June/July	Attraction/Growth	Stand Alone
August	Balance	Issue related
September	Growth	Renewal
October/November	Attraction/Growth	Spiritual Adventure
December	Balance/Growth	Inspiration

* Always start a new series on Easter.

PREACHING CALENDAR PLANNING TIPS

- Schedule a yearly time away to work on your preaching calendar
- _____ before and/or during your planning time
- Bring a regular calendar with _____ and a school calendar
- Bring Attendance trends from the previous two years
- Re-listen to Planning A One Year Preaching Calendar

- Plan as a team
- Brainstorm key series topics or issues
- Outline key start and end dates for each series
(be sure to include guest speakers, holidays and stand alone dates)
- Focus on February and October series titles/start dates first
- Remember the September trio: 1- Evangelism 2- Ministry 3- Stewardship
- Keep all _____ for the future
- Don't worry if there are gaps
- Don't forget to schedule in the times you will be away
(See "Developing A One Year Personal Growth Plan" Audio Resource)
- Set aside the draft calendar for a couple of weeks and revisit
- Revisit the Calendar as often as needed to stay 2 – 3 months ahead
- _____ to interrupt your calendar!

My Next Steps:

III. Preparing and Conducting the Services

Each Sunday is like the tip of an iceberg – the strength and impact of that Sunday will be determined by what happens below the water line in planning and preparation.

Three key questions:

- 1- How far in advance will I plan each series?
(Titles, topics, graphics, key scriptures)

- 2- How far in advance will I plan each sermon?
(Title, scriptures, creative elements, outline)

- 3- How far in advance will I finalize each Sunday?
(Worship order, creative elements, manuscript)

A SERIES PLANNING TIME LINE

Before the Start of a Series

- 4-10 months out – Series Idea/Title

- 1 month out – Message Titles and Series Themes Set

- 1 month out –Begin collecting creative elements for series based on message titles and themes

- 3 weeks out – Creative Planning Meeting – creative ideas for the series shared and organized

- 10 days out – Series Specific Staging/Props ready for testing

Series Begins

A SUNDAY PLANNING TIME LINE

Before a Specific Sunday

- 3 weeks out – Message Research Team Research Due
- 2 weeks out – Specific Music and Creative Elements Planned
- 2 weeks out – 1st Draft of Message Notes from Teaching Pastor in Worship Planning Meeting
- 2 weeks out – 1st Draft of Worship Order in Worship Planning Meeting
- 5 days out – Final Draft of Message Notes from Teaching Pastor in Worship Planning Meeting
- 5 days out – Final Draft of Worship Order and Creative Elements in Worship Planning Meeting; Specific prayer time for service
- 3 days out – Production Meeting Finalizing Worship Order and Elements of Service
- 3 days out – Final message manuscript completed; trial run of message
- 3 days out – Thursday Midnight Rule – everything finalized for Sunday

Sunday Service conducted

KEY QUESTION: Who will lead the worship planning process in my church?

Four Requirements of An Effective Worship Planning System

- 1- Constant conversation between the pastor and worship leader.
- 2- High accountability among staff and volunteers.
- 3- A culture of punctuality.
- 4- A commitment to excellence.

SEVEN CREATIVE ELEMENTS IN WORSHIP PLANNING

Note: Prioritized in order of impact

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Somebody always pays the price for a good sermon. You will either pay the price in preparation or your people will pay the price in listening.

Conducting a Sermon Trial Run

- Schedule a time for the trial run
(3 days before Sunday)
- Complete the manuscript
- Gather the creative elements
- Plan for audio or video recording
- Gather an interested audience
- Assign a time keeper
- Deliver the sermon exactly as planned for the upcoming Sunday
- Elicit positive and constructive feedback
- Pray together for the upcoming Sunday
- Re-edit the manuscript

Key Question: What can I do this week to improve the quality of my sermons?

Homework: Evaluate my Sunday morning routine.

“Move me! Scare me! Inspire me! Convict me! Stir me! Anger me! Surprise me! Ignite me! Thrill me! Just don’t leave me the way you found me when I walked through your doors!” - Bill Hybels on what people want from a worship service

The Power of Sunday

Sunday is . . . game day . . . impact time . . . evangelism hour . . . resurrection day . . . prime time . . . focal point . . . the super bowl, world cup and world series all rolled in one! Sunday matters! THIS Sunday Matters!

THE GOAL: A Life Transforming Worship Service Each Sunday!

IV. Improving and Evaluating the Services

“Feedback is the breakfast of Champions” – Ken Blanchard

There is no excellence without evaluation! While the goal is to be excellent every Sunday, the reality is that excellence happens through small improvements week after week.

A worthy goal: Look like a church _____!

The Principle of CANEI: _____

How to Create a Culture of Feedback

Plan time for feedback

Begin with prayer

Be grateful for feedback

Be your toughest critique

Give feedback that is specific

Give feedback that is helpful

Focus on the issue, not the person

Insure action for each point of feedback

Seek feedback as a way to honor God

When to Evaluate?

- In pre-planning
- In the sermon trial run
- During rehearsal
- During set-up / Sunday rehearsal
- Between Services*
- After each Sunday
- After each Series

* If you conduct multiple services, each service should get better due to feedback after the previous service. However, do not use this as an excuse to not pre-plan productively.

FOUR EVALUATION QUESTIONS

1. What went _____?
2. What went _____?
3. What was _____?
4. What was _____?

For best results, answer Question #1 first and then pray and thank God for all that went right. Next, answer Questions 2 – 4 at the same time. Assign each item in Questions 2 - 4 to the appropriate person for action before the previous Sunday. Most issues can be solved within one week. Provide accountability to see that each item is corrected prior to Thursday night.

You don't get what you expect, you get what you inspect!

Conclusion

“I waited patiently for the LORD to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along. He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what he has done and be astounded. They will put their trust in the LORD. Oh, the joys of those who trust the LORD, who have no confidence in the proud, or in those who worship idols.”

- Psalm 40:1-4

“Commit your work to the Lord, and then your plans will succeed.”

- Proverbs 16:3

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING TODAY!

Appendix A: Bibliography

Spiritual Disciplines in the Christian Life by Donald Whitney

The Purpose Driven Church by Rick Warren

Preaching for Life Change (CD/DVD) by Rick Warren

The Performance Factor by Pat MacMillan

The Experience Economy by Joseph Pine and James Gilmore

Launch: Starting A New Church From Scratch

by Nelson Searcy and Kerrick Thomas

Planning Worship Services for Life Transformation (CD) by Nelson Searcy, Jason

Hatley and Kerrick Thomas

Soul Tsunami by Leonard Sweet

Leading At A Higher Level by Ken Blanchard

Church that Works by Gary McIntosh

The Heart of The Artist by Rory Noland

An Hour on Sunday by Nancy Beach

Designing Worship by Kim Miller

Christian Worship: Its Theology And Practice by Franklin M. Segler

and Randall Bradley

Real Worship by Warren Wiersbe

The Big Idea by Dave Ferguson

Made to Stick by Chip Heath and Dan Heath

Engaging Worship by Group Publishing

Growing An Engaged Church by Donald Winseman

Creating Minds by Howard Gardner

Time Power by Brian Tracy

Websites:

www.willowcreek.com

www.pastors.com

www.WorshipLeaderInsights.com

Appendix B:

2007 Journey Preaching Calendar

Get Fit: Healthy Habits for a New Year

Jan. 7: Get Spiritually Fit (NS/RM) (KT Out)
Jan. 14: Get Intellectually Fit (NS)
Jan. 21: Get Physically Fit (KT)
Jan. 28: Get Financially Fit (NS)
Feb. 4: Get Relationally Fit (NS/KT) (Baptism) (Communion)

Relationship Rescue

Feb. 11: Back to the Basics
Feb. 18: Dating Dilemmas (Class 101)
Feb. 25: Marriage Maintenance
Mar. 4: Dealing with Divorce

iGod: Discovering the God Who Is

Mar. 11: iGod AM All-Preset
Mar. 18: iGod AM All-Powerful
Mar. 25: iGod AM All-Knowing
April 1: iGod AM All-Loving

Winning @ the Games of Life

Apr 8: The Big Game...of Life (EASTER SUNDAY!!!)
Apr. 15: "Monopoly...Show Me the Money" (Class 101)
Apr. 22:"Texas Hold-em...When to Risk It All" (Baptism)
Apr. 29: "Baseball...Life is a Team Sport" (NS Out)
May 6: "Solitaire...Winning Against Loneliness"
May 13: "Everyone Needs a Coach"

Cain & Abel

May 20: Selfishness & Sacrifice
May 27: Stubbornness & Obedience (no 7 PM service)
June 3: Excuses & Responsibility

God on Film

June 10: Oceans 13: Choosing Right When I've Been Wronged
June 17: The Fantastic Four: Finding Power When I Feel Like Giving Up
June 24: Evan Almighty: Taking Small Steps to Make a Big Difference
July 1: Live Free or Die Hard: Living Every Day as if It's My Last
July 8: Transformers: Changing My Life for Good
July 15: License to Wed: Making Straight A's in Marriage
July 22: Harry Potter: Overcoming the Dark Side of the Supernatural
July 29: The Simpson's Movie: Do'h – Decoding the Gospel According to Homer Simpson

August Message Series

Aug. 5: (NS Out) – Ed Short “Finding My Purpose”

Aug 12: (KT Out) – Chris Brady “Taming Temptation”

Aug 19: (KT Out) – Lance Whitt “Finding God in My Pain”
(Worship Leader Auditions)

Aug 26: David Crosby “Dealing with Disappointment” (NS Out)

Fully Engaged: The Power of a Committed Life

Sept. 2: Fully Engaged in My Walk with God (NS)

Sept. 9: Fully Engaged with the Real Jesus (Lee Strobel)

Sept. 16: Fully Engaged in My Church (NS) (GG Leaders Training)

Sept. 23: Fully Engaged with My Friends (KT)

- WAT Auditions

Sept. 30: Fully Engaged in My City (KT) (Baptism)

- Fall GG’s Begin on Monday, October 1

The New Testament Challenge

Oct. 7: Kick-Off Sunday – The Challenge of the New Testament (NS)

Oct. 14: (WAT Orientation) – The Challenge of Radical Love (KT)

Oct. 21: (Class 101) – The Challenge of Generosity (NS)

Oct. 28: (Members Luncheon) – The Challenge of Perseverance (NS/KT)

Nov. 4: (Class 201) – The Challenge of Sacrifice (NS)

Nov. 11: (Baptism) – The Challenge of Forgiveness (?) (KT)

Nov. 18: (Class 301) – The Challenge of Godliness (NS)

Nov. 25: (NS Out) – The Challenge of Eternity (AB)

Christmas Traditions: 4 Traditions That Reveal the Real Jesus

Dec. 2: NTC – Celebration Sunday (NS Out)

Dec. 9: The Rite of Covenant (Gen. 17:1-14; Col. 2:9-15)

Dec. 16: The Rite of Redemption (Lev. 12:1-8)

Dec. 23: The Rite of Purification (Lev. 12:1-8) Combined Christmas Service

Dec. 30: (No Services)

Appendix C:

Right, Wrong, Missing, Confusing

Sunday, April 2

Right-

- New seating
- Pancakes
- Stage extension
- Video testimony
- Video teaching
- Balcony cam
- Gaff tape on baton
- Placement of coffee and donuts
- Lighting on painting
- Good debrief section after 10am service
- Abby (New!) DJ after 10am service
- Fill-ins stayed up longer on power point
- Silence at the end of the message
- Lighting on stage extension
- Nelson walking around on the staging extension
- Dance
- Stan- new sound guy
- Worship order flow-
- Set ups for transitions- video testimony, etc

Wrong

- Andi too loud and too early reading the verse at 10am service- JH and JC
- Camera angle- floor cam too far right
- Jason's guitar not working at 11:30 am- JH
- ASMs moving too slowly on and off stage- JH
- ASMs not wearing black_ JH
- Pastor over 5 minutes in every service
- Seating not right at 7am- SW to talk to Tony Cimmino
- House lights up to slow after the rollin in am- JC
- Sound between services- too loud- take it down a major notch- JC
- Camera shots- not always on the person leading/active person- JC and JH
- No rover cam in am- camera shots on solos
- Bass Head fell off- RF/JH

Missing

- No music after 7:00 pm- jeff
- No "pastors at back announcement" at 10am- CB
- Pastor pack "missing" but really at the SM table- JH- list of responsibilities for SMs and ASMs
- Memory verse cards- JHK
- Bass head fell off the speaker
- Everyone on-stage at 9am pep meeting- JH

Confusing

- Lyrics up for 40 song- communication issue- JH/JC
- Offering at 10am- SW and CB
- ASMs didn't know where to stand when off stage- always in the way- JH
- SM didn't meet ASM until way into the service- JH
- Andi- turn and have a seat- JH

- Clapping on stage—
- First set—too new? Violation of sing simple songs? Not familiar?
- Production area for Sunday- communication issue

Appendix C:

SETTING YOUR PREACHING LINEUP FOR LIFE CHANGE

By Kerrick Thomas

The 2003 American League Championship Series between the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox came down to a final climactic game 7 to determine which team would go on to the World Series. Right before the deciding game the Yankees manager, Joe Torre, made a sudden change in his batting lineup that perplexed a lot of people. Torre moved Jason Giambi (the Yankees #4 hitter all year and a former MVP) down to 7th in the batting order because Giambi had been in a horrible hitting slump. Many people questioned Torre’s decision. “Why would you change someone’s position in the lineup right before the most important game of the season?”

But the move worked. During that deciding game 7, Boston’s pitching ace Pedro Martinez dominated every Yankee hitter...except Jason Giambi. The new position in the batting order relieved some of the pressure off of Giambi, motivated him, and brought new life to his bat. Giambi hit two home runs to keep the Yankees in the game and eventually enabled a late inning comeback for a victory that propelled the Yankees to yet another World Series.

The moral of the story: *How a manager sets the lineup before the game makes a big difference.*

The same is true for pastors as we set our message lineup for the coming year.

RBI’S vs. RTL’S

The most important offensive stat in baseball is not homeruns or stolen bases or even batting average, it’s **RBI’s** (*Runs Batted In*). The more runs a team is able to score, the better the chance that team has to succeed.

So, one of the most significant questions for any baseball manager is this: *How can I set my batting lineup so that our team can produce the most RBI’s possible?*

For churches, the most important stat isn’t RBI’s...it’s **RTL’s** (*Radically Transformed Lives*). The more RTL’s that happen within a church, the better the church is fulfilling its mission in light of the Great Commandments and the Great Commission.

To see “Radically Transformed Lives” within your church...3 things have to be taking place.

- Unbelievers must be coming to your church on a regular basis.
- Attenders must be introduced to a personal relationship with Jesus in creative ways.
- Believers (new and mature alike) must be continually challenged to take the next step in their life-long spiritual journey with Jesus.

And one of the most important ways to see these things happen in your church is through the weekly messages on Sunday. So, one of the most significant questions for any pastor is this: *How can I set my message lineup so that our church can produce the most RTL's possible?*

OFF-THE-CUFF vs. ADVANCED PLANNING

There are two distinct ways that a baseball manager can go about setting his batting lineup. On one hand, the manager can wait until moments before the game and just scribble down a possible lineup off the top of his head. Or the manager can take the time to carefully study the opposing pitcher beforehand (his strengths and weaknesses), consider the strengths and weaknesses of his own hitters, and then with thoughtful planning set his lineup for the maximum number of RBI's.

I guarantee you that every major league manager chooses the second approach.

In the same way, there are two distinct ways that a pastor can go about preparing his weekly messages. A pastor can wait until the last minute and then pull a message or message series out of his sleeve. Or he can prayerfully and strategically plan out his message lineup months in advance for the maximum number of RTL's.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of pastors rely on off-the-cuff, last-minute planning for their message lineups. Why?

At The Journey in New York City, we are committed to planning our message lineup months in advance (up to a year in advance) for maximum life change. Why? Because we believe that the advanced planning and strategic placement of our future message series will lead directly to the maximum number of RTL's.

Besides seeing real life-change, there are other advantages to planning message series months in advance.

- You can be more creative in worship and with promotion when you know which message series are coming months in advance.
- It becomes possible to integrate other areas of your church with the Sunday services and message series – such as small group curriculum, daily devotions, service opportunities, etc.
- Stress and anxiety are significantly reduced and you become a better teacher when you do not have to come up with topics, sermons, and illustrations at the last minute.

Once you have decided that your preaching is about radically transforming lives and you have committed to setting your message lineup in advance...here are 3 steps that you need to take.

STEP #1: EXAMINE YOUR CALENDAR

A baseball manager always pays attention to who is pitching for the other team before he sets his lineup for the game. Some batters hit particularly well against certain pitchers. Often right-

handed batters hit better against left-handed pitchers and vice versa. But the point is this; different opponents often call for a different lineup.

As you set your message lineup for the coming year, the first thing you need to do is look at your calendar. Ask your self these three questions.

1. At what times of the year is my church best able to reach new, unchurched people?

At The Journey, our teaching team works hard to set the preaching calendar – sometimes as early as a year in advance. This is a discipline that we take seriously.

We have found that there are 3 times of the year when there seems to be an influx of new people into our community (Manhattan) and into our church: at the beginning of the year (February); at the beginning of the summer (June); and at the beginning of the school year (September). These are the times of the year when either new people are moving into the city or people might be more open to considering the possibility of checking out church. It may be different in your city or town, but these are the times of the year when we have the best opportunity to reach new people in our city.

And don't forget Easter. Easter is a wonderful time to *begin* a new series by challenging attendees (including first time or once a year attendees) to commit to staying plugged in for the entirety of the new message series.

These are the times of year that you want to have a message series that appeals most to unchurched people.

2. At what times of the year does my church have the highest and steadiest attendance?

At The Journey, the times of the year when we have the highest and most consistent Sunday attendance are during the months of October-November and the months of February-April. These are the times when we are the most successful at getting people connected at the church from the beginning to the end of a series.

These are the times of the year that you want to have a message series that really challenges a person (no matter who they are) to take the next step in their spiritual lives. You want to have your message series that people just “can't miss” at these times... relevant and challenging. Because it is during these times that you have the attention of more people for a longer period of time than you have at any other time of the year.

3. At what times of the year does my Sunday attendance fluctuate the most?

At The Journey, these are the months of January, August, and December...months when people are traveling or are in the most transition. For a lot of churches, this category includes the summer months.

These are the times of year you have several options and can be very creative. For instance, these are the best times to try a series whose individual messages do not build on each other from week to week. For instance, we have done a “Got Questions?” series during months like this where each week a relevant question is addressed that may or may not be connected with the message the week before.

STEP #2: KNOW YOUR HITTERS

1,2,3 HITTERS – ATTRACT

On a baseball team, the first 3 hitters are the guys who get on base. They have a high batting average; they make contact with the ball; they don't strike out. Although they don't hit very many homeruns or even get a lot of RBI's, they do get on base so that the other batters can get the big hits and the RBI's.

The 1-3 hitters in your message lineup have the purpose of getting runners on base too. In other words, their main purpose is to bring new people into the church. These message series should be relevant to your community and should address topics that are attractive to people in your community – believers and unbelievers alike. They should be messages that people in your church can get excited about bringing their unchurched friends to hear. They should address the felt needs of your community.

These series are not shallow...on the contrary; they are theologically deep and challenging. But they are particularly attractive to those who may not regularly attend church and should be placed during the time of year when your church has the greatest opportunity to reach new people.

Here are some examples of some of our 1-3 hitters at The Journey: “Figuring Out Your Finances,” “God on Film” (a summer series highlighting current blockbuster movies), “Sex and the City,” and “Stress-Free Living.”

These message series are good at getting people on base – bringing new people into the church and getting them plugged in.

4,5,6 HITTERS – GROW

On a baseball team, the 4-6 hitters are the guys who hit the most homeruns and who get the most RBI's. You want them up to bat when there are runners on base and there is a chance to score...because they can really hit for power and RBI's. They are your best hitters.

The 4-6 hitters in your message lineup are those series that can make the biggest impact on the lives of those who attend. They are the message series that tie in most completely with the life of your church (with the small groups, the missions and ministry opportunities, etc.). These series receive the most promotion and are strategically placed during the times of the year when your

church has the highest attendance and the greatest opportunity for growth. These are the series that you wait all year for and which take people to the next step in their spiritual lives.

Here are some examples of some of our 4-6 hitters at The Journey: “40 Days of Purpose,” “Real Friends: Relationships for the Real World,” “The Path to Peace in the City” (a study of the Lord’s Prayer), and “The Creed” (a study of the Apostles’ Creed).

These message series are good at bringing people into relationships with Christ, increasing baptisms, growing membership, increasing numbers in ministry and mission. A lot of work goes into making these possible...because the series extends into every area of your churches life.

7,8,9 HITTERS – BALANCE

On a baseball team, the 7-9 hitters usually have the lowest batting averages, but they bring a fullness and richness to the team that goes beyond merely their hitting skills – defense, leadership, timely hitting, etc. They bring a balance to the team by making up for the weaknesses of their higher-paid teammates. The quality of the 7-9 hitters usually separates the good teams from the great teams.

The 7-9 hitters in your message lineup bring balance to your overall teaching by allowing you to touch on areas or topics that you missed or were weak on during other parts of the year. These are the messages that allow you to address specific issues or felt needs that do not always require an entire series and were not addressed in an earlier series. These issues need to be taught on, but you do not want to focus on them for an extended series. The 7-9 hitters might also be a series whose messages do not build on each other from week to week (where the messages are only held together loosely by an overlying theme or question) or a single message on a special day (for instance, The Journey has had a “Real Men’s Day” on Father’s Day before).

Here are some examples of some of our 7-9 hitters at The Journey: “Got Questions?” (addressing controversial questions suggested by church members), “The Games of Life: Succeeding Where It Matters Most,” and “Finding Community in NYC.”

STEP #3: PRAYERFULLY SET YOUR LINEUP

The final step is to prayerfully set your message lineup. Listen to the Holy Spirit...and proceed with wisdom. Place your 1,2,3 hitters at the time of the year when you have the greatest opportunity to reach new people. Make sure your best hitters are available for the times of year when you are going to have the highest attendance and the best chance for growth. And be wise about how you spread your 7-9 hitters out throughout the year.

If you take these steps, your upcoming message series will be an important component of your churches evangelistic outreach and discipleship strategy. You will see more unbelievers come to your church, more people accept Christ, and more believers taking the next step in their life-long journey with God.

As you pray through your message lineup for the upcoming year, resist the temptation to do it alone. Ask other staff members or church members you trust to work with you through this process of planning your message lineup.

At The Journey we have a teaching team made up of several teaching pastors on our staff. But even our teaching team finds that setting a message lineup months in advance is a difficult process. We struggle just to come up with creative titles for our messages! So, we rely on others. We have a Message Research Team made up of church members and are never afraid to ask others for advice, suggestions, or guidance. We have found that the more people we involve in creating our message lineup, the more successful we are...and the more lives that are ultimately transformed.

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE RTL'S

Remember...it's all about seeing God produce "Radically Transformed Lives" in your church and through your teaching. RTL'S are the ultimate goal! And if you are serious about setting your message lineup for life change...you will take seriously the process of examining your calendar, knowing your hitters, and prayerfully setting your lineup months in advance.

When you do these 3 things...you are setting your message lineup for the maximum number of RTL's!

Appendix D:

MONOPLY: PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

April 15, 2007

Nelson Searcy

*“If you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth,
who will trust you with true riches?”*

– Luke 16:11

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” – Luke 12:34

FIVE PRINCIPLES FOR FINANCIAL STABILITY

I. KEEP GOOD RECORDS

The Principle of Accounting

*“Riches can disappear fast... so watch your business interests closely. Know the state of
your flocks and herds.”* -- Proverbs 27:34-24

“Get the facts at any price!” -- Proverbs 23:23

II. PLAN MY SPENDING

The Principle of Budgeting

MEMORY VERSE

*“Plan carefully and you will have plenty; if you act too quickly you will never have
enough.”* -- Proverbs 21:5

“... stupid people spend their money as fast as they get it.” -- Proverbs 21:20

III. SAVE FOR MY FUTURE

The Principle of Saving

“The wise man saves for the future...” -- Proverbs 21:20

*“Money that comes easily disappears quickly, but money that is gathered little by little will
grow.”* -- Proverbs 13:11

Recommended Resource:

Total Money Makeover by Dave Ramsey <pic of book in notes>

IV. RETURN TEN PERCENT TO GOD

The Principle of Tithing

“Bring to My Storehouse a full tenth of what you earn... Test Me in this, says the Lord. I will open the windows of heaven for you and pour out all the blessings you need.”

-- Malachi 3:10

“On every Lord’s Day you should put aside something from what you have earned during the week, and use it for this offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn.” --1 Corinthians 16:2

“Honor the Lord by giving Him the first part of all your income, and He will fill your barns... to overflow!” -- Proverbs 3:9-10

V. ENJOY WHAT I HAVE

The Principle of Contentment

“It is better to be satisfied with what you have than to always be wanting something else.”

-- Ecclesiastes 6:9

“Be content with what you have...” -- Hebrews 13:5

“Why spend money on what does not satisfy?” -- Isaiah. 55:2

“If I have put my trust in money, if my happiness depends on wealth... it would mean that I denied the God of heaven.” -- Job 31:24, 28

MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS TO:

- Memorize Proverbs 21:5.
- Trust God fully with my finances by tithing.
- Request prayer for my financial situation.
- Learn more about The Journey’s Baptism next Sunday, April 22.