From Interpretation to Proclamation

Hermeneutics & Homiletics | Presentation Planning Packet

For class discussion • November 5, 2026

Assignment at a glance

Timing guidance: Aim to finish at 5:00. Give a 30-second warning at 4:30; peer comments begin immediately after the presentation. A short message is not automatically penalized for time but must still meet all content expectations.

Choose one assigned biblical passage. Prepare a 1–2-page sermon outline and deliver a five-minute sermonette/homily (maximum 5:00). Your message must arise from the complete assigned unit and its context, not an isolated verse. Interpret accurately, explain clearly, and apply faithfully.

Presentation dates: November 12, 16, 19, and 23, 2026. December certification candidates receive scheduling priority. Individual presentation slots and two peer reviewers per presenter will be announced after the roster is confirmed.

Six Scripture selections and interpretive guidance

OLD TESTAMENT — Ruth 1:6–22

Genre: Historical narrative | Interpretive focus: Loyalty, loss, commitment, and providence

Context caution: Read the full return scene; Ruth 1:16–17 is not merely a wedding or friendship statement.

OLD TESTAMENT — Habakkuk 3:1–19

Genre: Prophetic prayer and poetry | Interpretive focus: Trust and worship amid adversity

Context caution: Read chapters 1–2 to understand the prophet's questions and God's response.

OLD TESTAMENT — 2 Samuel 12:1–15a

Genre: Historical narrative / prophetic confrontation | Interpretive focus: Accountability, repentance, justice, consequences

Context caution: Read 2 Samuel 11; do not turn Nathan's confrontation into a generic warning against judging.

NEW TESTAMENT — John 7:37–39

Genre: Gospel teaching | Interpretive focus: Living water, belief, and the Holy Spirit

Context caution: Study the Feast of Tabernacles context in John 7; the preaching unit is short but context matters.

NEW TESTAMENT — Mark 7:24–30

Genre: Gospel healing narrative | Interpretive focus: Faith, mercy, and the priority of Israel in Jesus' mission

Context caution: Address the difficult children-and-dogs exchange within its historical and narrative setting.

NEW TESTAMENT — Ephesians 2:1–10

Genre: Epistle / doctrinal teaching | Interpretive focus: Grace, salvation, faith, and good works

Context caution: Distinguish works as the result of salvation, not its cause.

Student preparation directions

1. Observation

Read the full passage repeatedly. Identify speakers, audience, setting, repeated words, contrasts, commands, and genre.

2. Interpretation

Explain what the passage meant in its original setting. Examine historical and literary context and use related Scripture responsibly; avoid reading personal ideas into the text.

3. Application

Identify a faithful response for today that follows from the established meaning.

4. Homiletical organization

Give the sermon a title and Scripture reference; open briefly; state one central message; develop one or two text-supported points; apply; conclude.

5. Required outline

Submit 1–2 pages identifying passage/translation, context, central message, major point(s), application, and conclusion.

Instructor grading rubric — 100 points

Criterion	Points	What the instructor looks for
Biblical interpretation and fidelity to Scripture	25	Accurate meaning: sermon claims arise from the text
Historical, literary, and theological context	15	Audience, setting, genre, and surrounding passage handled well
Sermon organization and central message	20	Clear introduction, focused main idea, coherent points, conclusion
Faithful and meaningful application	15	Specific application supported by the interpretation
Oral delivery and communication	15	Clear, understandable, engaging and paced appropriately
Preparation, directions, and time management	10	Outline, compliance with directions, and five-minute maximum
TOTAL	100	

Performance levels: Excellent (90–100% of criterion points); Proficient (75–89%); Developing (60–74%); Needs Improvement (0–59%).

Preparation and time (10 points): preparation/directions = 0–5 points; time management = 0–5 points. Time penalties are limited to the time-management component.

Component	Points	Rule
Outline and directions	0–5	5 = complete 1–2-page outline and all requirements; 3–4 = minor omissions; 1–2 = substantial omissions; 0 = missing.
Time: 0:00–5:00	5	At or below the five-minute maximum, adequate content is assessed under the other criteria.
Time: 5:01–5:15	4	Up to 15 seconds over the limit.
Time: 5:16–5:30	3	16–30 seconds over the limit.
Time: 5:31–5:45	2	31–45 seconds over the limit.
Time: 5:46–6:00	1	46–60 seconds over the limit.
Time: over 6:00	0	More than 60 seconds above the limit.

Instructor score: Interpretation ___/25 Context ___/15 Organization ___/20
Application ___/15 Delivery ___/15 Preparation/time ___/10 TOTAL ___/100

Peer review — assigned in advance

Two reviewers per presenter; each reviewer has one minute to share a constructive comment. Ratings are formative and do not determine the instructor's grade.

Presenter: _____ Reviewer: _____ Passage: _____

Criterion	Rating (1–4)
Biblical interpretation: faithful to the passage	____
Context: reflects setting, genre, and surrounding passage	____
Central message: clear and supported by Scripture	____
Organization: clear opening, development, and closing	____
Application: appropriate to the text and today's audience	____
Delivery: understandable, engaging, and within time	____

Rating scale: 4 Excellent | 3 Proficient | 2 Developing | 1 Needs Improvement

1. What was the strongest aspect of this message?

_____

2. Give one example of how the speaker supported a point using Scripture.

_____

3. What is one specific suggestion for strengthening the message?

_____

Scheduling preview

Date	Capacity target	Reviewers
Thu, Nov 12	15 presenters	Two assigned per presenter
Mon, Nov 16	15 presenters	Two assigned per presenter
Thu, Nov 19	15 presenters	Two assigned per presenter
Mon, Nov 23	15 presenters	Two assigned per presenter

Planning assumption: 5 minutes per message + 2 minutes for peer comments = 7 minutes per candidate. Fifteen candidates use 105 minutes, leaving 15 minutes for opening, transitions, and closing.and closing. Actual roster assignments are pending.