From Interpretation to Proclamation

Hermeneutics & Homiletics | Presentation Planning Packet

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.

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.

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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.

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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

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