

“DEVELOPING A SERIES”

A need as a Pastor is knowing how to develop series: Sermon/Sunday School/Bible Study...

I. DEVELOPING A SERIES

A. A Particular type of series is thematic: Following a theme

1. A recurring idea that is found in multiple passages in the Bible
 - a. Words that are found in more than one place in the Bible:
 1. **A single word:** *Such as ‘forgiveness’* (Note: This can be very broad – hundreds of scriptures)
 2. **A phrase:** *Such as ‘one another’ ‘The Lord was with him’*
 3. **A physical object:** *Such as wells/mountains/donkeys, etc...*
 2. The idea is that things that are repeated are important/have greater emphasis
 - a. But each instance may bring out a different aspect of an overall idea
 3. So you need to read the Bible with an eye for repetition
 - a. See what is repeated – and write it down to study later (I have many written & saved in a folder)
 4. **So step one is choosing a word/phrase or object to search out**
 - a. In this case: Spears

B. The next step is to find out all the instances of the word

1. In a Strong’s concordance you type the word in the search field (Spear) 45x
 - a. If you type ‘spear’ with the wildcard command * adds s/ed/ing it occurs 64x
2. We don’t need to find out the original language (spear means spear)
 - a. But there is another word that means the same thing: Javelin
 - b. If we search for javelin we find another 7x
3. You need to copy the verses into a document

C. The next step is to sort the verses

1. Delete any repeated instances that are unnecessary
2. Print out the verses you have left

D. The next step is perusing/pondering the scriptures

1. Read through the selected passages – you are looking for:
 - a. Themes or connected ideas: What do they have in common?
 - b. What title for the series is suggested?
2. Brainstorming: Trying to get your brain to function
 - a. Write down a word or phrase that sums up what the scripture means/is a symbol of
3. Over time: Write down any thoughts on each passage as you read/pray over them
 - a. I often do this at the end of my morning prayer
4. Choose the best passages: You want to aim for 6-8 lessons for a Sunday School series

D. Specific studying

1. Look at each passage in specifics: Word studies/commentaries
2. Divide the passage into main thoughts
3. Find supporting scripture for your main thoughts