

# Homiletics & Hermeneutics

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@ New Living Assembly  
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# Introductions



# Plan for the Day

- **Morning: Hermeneutics**

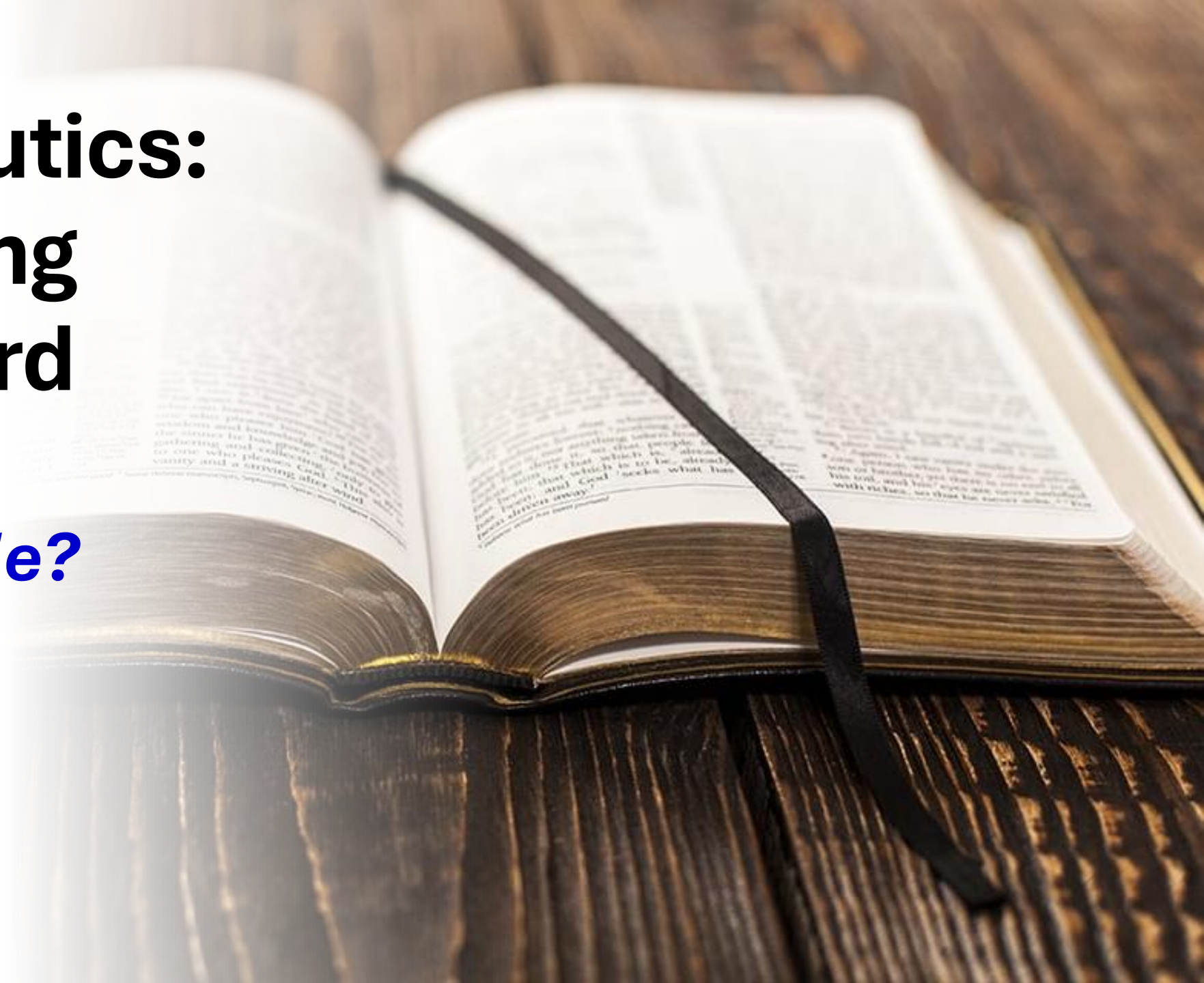
- *Interpreting the Word*

- **Afternoon: Homiletics**

- *Preaching the Word*

# Hermeneutics: Interpreting God's Word

*Why the Bible?*



# Hermeneutics: Interpreting God's Word

## EFCC Statement of Faith Article #2

- **God's gospel is authoritatively revealed in the Scriptures.**

*We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors.*

*As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavour should be judged.*

*Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.*

# Hermeneutics: Interpreting God's Word

## *Why the Bible?*

- **Psalms 19:7** – The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.
- **Psalms 119:9, 105** – How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word... Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.
- **Hebrews 4:12** – For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

# Hermeneutics: Interpreting God's Word

## *Why the Bible?*

- **Luke 24:27** – And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- **Personal impact stories...**

# Hermeneutics: Interpreting God's Word

## *Why the Bible?*

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# Hermeneutics: Interpreting God's Word

## *Why Hermeneutics?*

- **Personal bias** – we all have our own story, situation, and questions that we bring to the Word
- **Presuppositions** – what we already believe and assume to be true
- **Perspective** – Scripture contains particular stories within a greater Story, and different genres

# Hermeneutics: Interpreting God's Word

*How:  
Peeling  
the Layers*



# Hermeneutics: Interpreting God's Word

## Outer Layers: Beginning with Context

- Textual Criticism – *is the Bible reliable?*
  - Manuscripts – quantity & quality
  - Transmission – consistency over time, space
  - Translations – can reflect different sources
  - Compilation – Biblical editors, in exile

# Hermeneutics: Interpreting God's Word

## Outer Layers: Beginning with Context

- Canonical – *Which books belong?*
  - Old Testament – references in New Testament, historical & early church references (Josephus), Dead Sea Scrolls, Septuagint
  - New Testament – early manuscripts, Church fathers' correspondence, Eusebius
  - *What role does each book play in the overall story?*

# Hermeneutics: Interpreting God's Word

## Outer Layers: Beginning with Context

- Historical – *What is the story behind the story?*
  - Book setting – places, names, major events
  - Book occasion – author's motivation
  - *How does this book's context relate and translate into my own context?*

# Hermeneutics: Interpreting God's Word

## Outer Layers: Beginning with Context

- Literary – *In what form was it written?*
  - Genre – different goals of poetry, prophecy, history, teaching, theology
  - Form – figures of speech and sentence structures; descriptive stories vs. prescriptive teaching
  - Flow – progression of story/argument; general themes/metaphors; section markers

# Hermeneutics: Interpreting God's Word

## Inner Layers: Examining the Content

- Syntax – *Grammar & sentence structure*
  - Markers of meaning – therefore, so that, if/then
  - Controlling verbs – main action & modifiers
  - Patterns – chiasm & centre; repetition for emphasis
  - Tenses & cases – past, present, function
  - Bible software, commentaries

# Hermeneutics: Interpreting God's Word

## Inner Layers: Examining the Content

- Semantics – *Original meaning of words*
  - Conflation – combining words into one (love)
  - Expansion – one word, many meanings (flesh, body)
  - Context – finding & comparing other occurrences
  - Dictionary, Concordance, Commentaries  
Interlinear ([BibleStudyTools.com](http://BibleStudyTools.com))

# Hermeneutics: Interpreting God's Word

## Inner Layers: Examining the Content

- Theology – *Scripture interpreting Scripture*
  - Cross-referencing – other related verses
  - Salvation-history – how it fits in the overall narrative
  - Clarifying – using clearest Scriptures to interpret
  - Illustrating – finding stories & images that relate
  - Study Bible, topical books

# Hermeneutics: Interpreting God's Word

## Inner Layers: Examining the Content

- Spiritual – *What is God saying to me, today?*
  - Personal context – my questions
  - Communal aspect – our story, our situation
  - Eisegesis vs. exegesis – approach with open heart
  - Living Word – God still speaks today
  - **Luke 12:11-12; John 16:13** – Spirit will guide, provide
  - *Sharing examples?*

# Hermeneutics: Interpreting God's Word

## Choosing a Section of Scripture

- Context – looking around: addressing needs, current events, questions, problems
- Content – looking within: what I'm learning, what is next in the Book
- Topical – looking it up: researching for answers,

# Hermeneutics: Interpreting God's Word

## Scripture Reading: **1 Corinthians 1-4**

- *What stands out to you?*
- *Is there anything you'd like to clarify?*



# Homiletics: Preaching God's Word

## Why Homiletics?

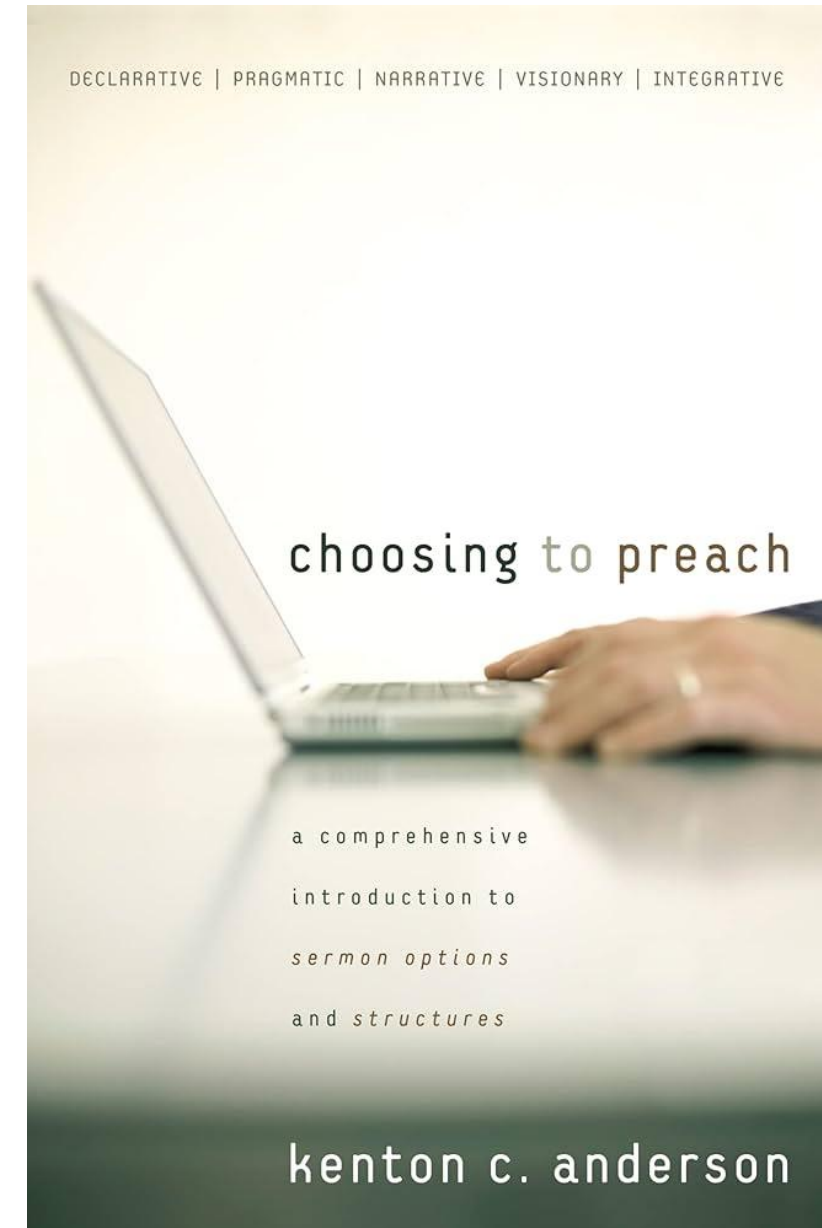
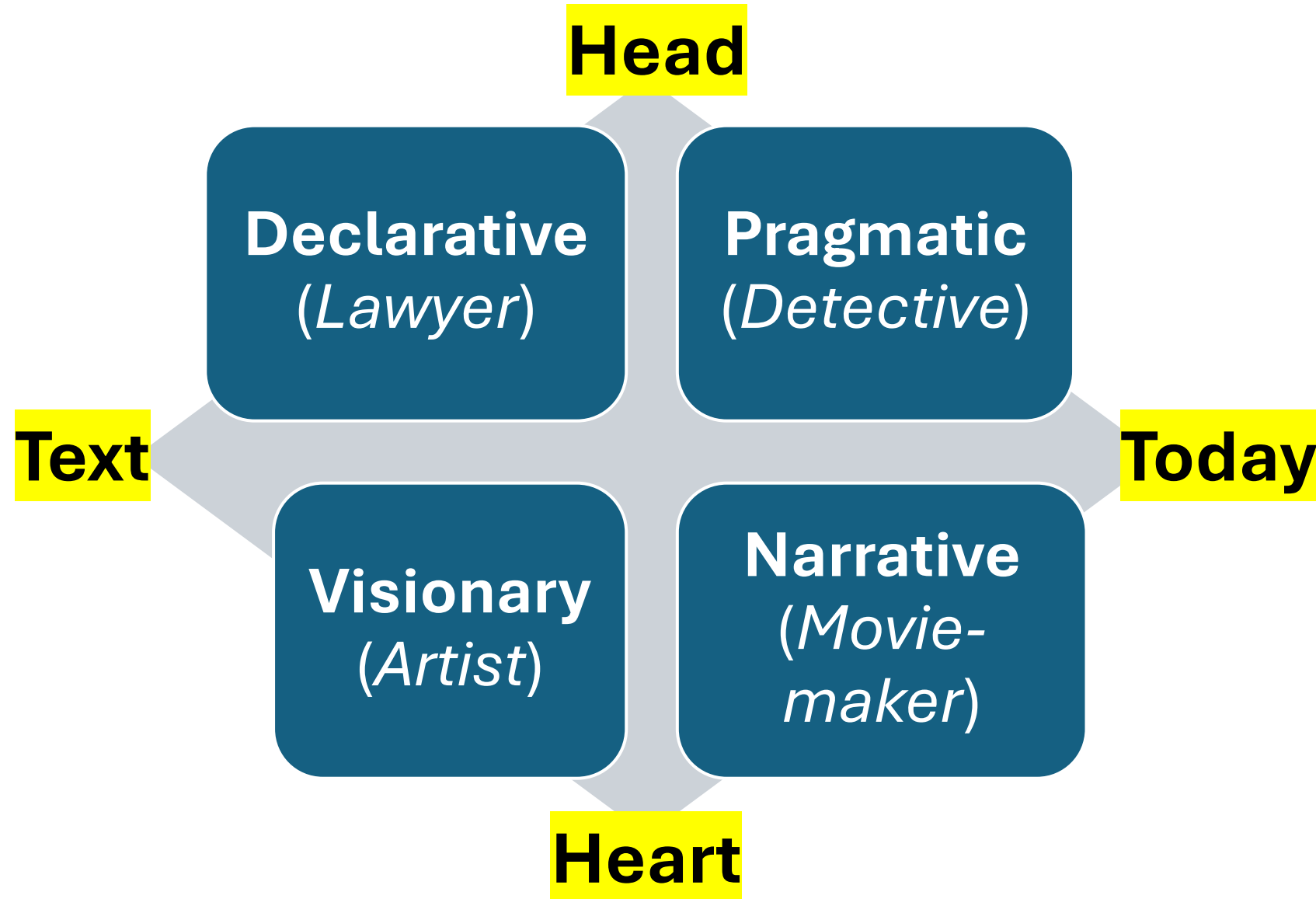
- Distance between **God** and humanity
  - **Eph 4:18** – They are **darkened** in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.
  - **Romans 10:14** – How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone **preaching** to them?

# Homiletics: Preaching God's Word

## Why Homiletics?

- Distance between **Scripture** & reader
  - **Luke 24:25, 45** – He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ...Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.
- Distance between **speaker** & listener
  - making an effort to communicate well
    - **Acts 17:2** – reasoning; **1 Peter 3:15** – gentleness

# Homiletics: 4 Approaches



# Homiletics: Preaching God's Word

## Where to Start: Finding a Topic & Scripture

- **Narrative** – something that happened
  - A Scripture that connects
- **Pragmatic** – a problem to solve
  - A Scripture that answers
- **Declarative** – something you've read
  - A Scripture that clearly expresses
- **Visionary** – a dream or hope
  - A Scripture that illustrates



# Homiletics: Preaching God's Word

## Building an Integrative Sermon

- 1.) Introduction:** Narrative – time to **connect**
  - *What is our topic, and why does it matter?*
- 2.) Investigation:** Declarative – time to **listen**
  - *What has God said & done about this?*
- 3.) Interpretation:** Pragmatic – time to **understand**
  - *What does this mean? How does it fit?*
- 4.) Illustration:** Visionary – time to **imagine, inspire**
  - *What shall I do? How shall I respond & apply?*

# Homiletics: Preaching God's Word

## Preparation: Filling in the Blanks

- **Introduction:** *What do I see?*
  - Awareness of people (your context)
- **Investigation:** *What do I hear?*
  - Awareness of priorities (God's agenda)
- **Interpretation:** *What's the point?*
  - Awareness of perspective (making connections)
- **Illustration:** *What needs to change?*
  - Awareness of possibilities (drawing implications)

# Homiletics: Preaching God's Word

## Presentation: Tools for Helpful Delivery

- **Transcript:** Writing it out beforehand
  - Must write like you will speak – and rehearse!
- **Outline:** Just enough to guide
  - Flexible, familiar, informal, shorter, spontaneous
- **Rehearsal:** First the worst, third time the charm
  - Chance for feedback, edits, emphasis, inflection
- **Delivery:** Engagement and Visuals
  - Eye contact, interaction, visual aids to reinforce

# Homiletics: Preaching God's Word

**Sermon sample**

- *Questions & Comments?*



# Homiletics: Preaching God's Word

## Practice: A Five-Minute Message

- **Choose** a verse from **1 Corinthians 1-4**
- Start on an **outline**:
  - **2.** Investigation – read to understand
  - **3.** Interpretation – find the point
  - **1.** Introduction – connect to listeners
  - **4.** Illustration – inspire change



# Homiletics: Preaching God's Word

## Practice: A Five-Minute Message

- **Choose** a verse from **1 Corinthians 1-4**
- Start on an **outline**
- **Discuss** with others:
  - *What is the main idea in a nutshell?*
  - *How does it arise from Scripture?*
  - *How does it connect with us?*
  - *What does it call us to?*



# Homiletics: Preaching God's Word

## Practice: A Five-Minute Message

- **Choose** a verse from **1 Corinthians 1-4**
- Start on an **outline**
- **Discuss** with others
- **Final preparations:**
  - Notes that you'll need – try 1 page
  - Rehearse – for length, smoothness



# Homiletics: Preaching God's Word

## Practice: A Five-Minute Message

- **Choose** a verse from **1 Corinthians 1-4**
- Start on an **outline**
- **Discuss** with others
- Final **preparations**
- **Presentations & feedback!**

