

Preaching Team FAQ

What is Preaching Team?

Preaching Team is a monthly sermon series subscription where you help shape the sermons. The community of pastors helps decide on the next series and contribute to ideas for each message. You can be as involved as you want — from a lurker to an activist.

Every member of the team pays a small \$20 fee each month. The money goes towards funding the site and hiring professional support (graphic designers, video editors, research assistants, etc.).

You'll get a new sermon series package every month, access to a growing resource library, and ability to help shape each message.

Package will include:

1. Series overview document
2. Sermon outline document
3. Research notes document
4. Title graphic
5. Slide graphic
6. Social graphics
7. Bumper Video

How will we create sermons together when everyone is different?

There is no one-size-fits-all approach to sermon preparation. Every pastor has their own workflow that works for them.

I have tried to preach other pastors sermons, and it didn't work. It can't work. Depending on your unique culture of people, church tradition, and personal preferences, you need to preach your sermons in different way than anyone else.

Think about the difference between a non-denominational church plant in New York City and a hundred-year-old Southern Baptist church in Garden Grove, Iowa. While the

message based on the unchanging truth of Scripture may be the same, the delivery and application will be different based on the pastor's personality and the people in the community.

So how can we work together?

God designed the church to function as one body. We're all members of the same body with different gifts and abilities. Though it's often a messy and dysfunctional family, we are still a family. We can and should set aside our minor differences and work together as a team.

Preaching Team will not write a word-for-word manuscript, telling you exactly what to preach. Instead, we will place a high value collaboration. We will provide a collaborative forum where ideas can be shared, and everyone can help vote on decisions.

Together, we will create outlines, graphics, and research notes that everyone can adapt to fit their unique context.

We won't write or preach the sermon for you, but we will give you a tremendous head start in every way that we can.

What are the rules?

In order for this to work, we will have to agree to operate on a few basic guidelines. We will follow three basic principles.

First, we will create Bible-based, Christ-centered sermons.

Our sermons will begin with God's Word, staying true to what the Bible says, not just what we think.

We will live in harmony with theological differences, but our sermons will not compromise major issues of orthodox Christian theology that are clearly evident in Scripture (the inerrancy of the Bible, salvation from our sins by grace through faith in Jesus alone, the sanctity of marriage, etc.).

Our sermons will find their fulfillment in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, through whom all Scripture is fulfilled and finds its fullest meaning (Lk 24:27). And we will seek his guidance in prayer throughout the process.

Second, we will work together as one family.

In other words, we will hold to the conviction that we are better together. We won't always agree on everything. We won't always get our way or like what others have to say. But instead giving in to fight or flight, we will embrace the mess and reap the rewards of working through it all together as one family in the kingdom of God.

Therefore, when we do not agree, we will still speak the truth in love (Eph 4:15). We will choose love as Christ commanded us to do, even when it's hard. We are better together — the way God created his church to be.

Although we desire to reconcile any problems, if we must, we will exercise the right to remove members of the team who disrupt the community in any way that compromises these guidelines.

Exactly how will this work each week?

Before we get into the details, please know that our desire is that we will all be praying throughout every week for the Holy Spirit to lead us through this process. If God is not working in and through us, we want no part of this.

So with much prayer, here is the general plan that we believe God has given us for this team:

We will work together each month to complete a new sermon series (three or more sermons) that will be released the first week of the following month.

These sermon series are not meant to be a complete guide to every week of your preaching (although it could be if you plan accordingly). They are meant to be a resource for you to use as you see fit.

Ideally, we will be working each month on a series that could be used in three months. For example, in September we might decide to work together on an Advent series for December. Then, in October, we will work on a series that might fit well in January.

In order to stay balanced in our approach, we will alternate each month between a sermon series based on a *topic* (topical) and a series based on a *passage* (verse by verse through part of the Bible).

A *topic* series could be about anything the Bible speaks about (relationships, generosity, service, forgiveness, prayer, the attributes of God, evangelism, etc.).

A *passage* series could be about any section or book of the Bible (Ephesians, The Sermon on the Mount, Psalm 23, Jonah, Joseph, James, The Birth of Jesus, etc.).

In total, together we will produce six topic based and six passage based series each year.

To ensure efficiency and collaboration, each week in the month we will post new discussions based on where we are at in the sermon planning process for the sermon that will be released the following month.

The collaborative schedule could look something like this:

WEEK 1: Topic/Passage

Help decide the topic/passage for the series.

WEEK 2: Name and Breakdown

Help decide the series title and the breakdown for each message.

WEEK 3: Design

Help decide on the design direction.

WEEK 4: Ideas

Help brainstorm quotes, illustrations, and other ideas that could work fit in the series.

BEGINNING OF NEXT MONTH: Download for the final series package is made available and we start the process again.

What if my church wants to preach a different sermon?

That's okay. You can create your own sermons or sermon series and make your church's preaching schedule however you want it to be.

You don't have to preach these series when others do. You can still help shape them, and save them for another time.

If there is a particular series that doesn't work for your church, you will still have access to a growing library of sermons, resources, and other material.

In addition, these sermons may not all fit perfectly in an annual sermon calendar. Some may be only three weeks; others five or more.

Use what you need, and save the rest for another time.

What if my sermon ideas aren't selected?

The more people who join the team and contribute ideas, the more likely it is that not every idea we have will be agreed upon. That's the unfortunate nature of collaboration. We are all going to be disappointed from time to time.

However, just because we have an idea that doesn't get selected, doesn't mean that it won't be chosen the next time around. If we really think it's a good idea, we can keep putting it on the table when we have the opportunity.

Other ideas may be chosen at first, but eventually that doesn't mean our ideas won't rise to the top of the pile eventually. Don't get discouraged. We still need everyone's contributions.

Furthermore, I've worked with other pastors before to create sermon series, and quite honestly, sometimes the ideas that I thought were the best weren't as good as I first believed. And sometimes the ideas I thought were the worst ended up being better than I ever imagined.

We have to approach our preaching team with an open heart and mind, praying that the Holy Spirit will work through all of us to create something better than we could have on our own.

What if I want to cancel my subscription?

You can cancel at any time in the Account Options section at the bottom of the members page.

What if I have others questions?

Please send me an email at brandon@propreacher.com