

FirstSteps for Planting a Missional Church

Coaching Guide #11

Preaching Schedule

It's been said, "Failure to prepare is preparing to fail." I am stunned at the lack of long term planning and preparation that takes place in developing a worship service and preaching schedule. This is only a hunch, but if we were to look at the top 100 fastest growing churches in America, a high percentage, if not all, would have a long term plan developed in regard to their preaching schedule. I know of one pastor who spends a year writing a commentary on the book of the Bible he is going to focus on in preparation for the next year's messages.

Biblical Insights

- II Timothy 4:1-3
- II Timothy 2:14-19
- Titus 2:1-14

Checklist

- Launch series developed and discussed with the coach.
- 12 month preaching calendar in place from time of launch to first anniversary.
- Preaching breaks and guest speakers secured.
- Five broad preaching goals determined and discussed with coach.
- Balanced preaching schedule developed with vision, outreach and growth series.

Reflective Questions

- What questions is your target group asking that needs to be addressed?
- Where and when will you do your preparation for your weekly messages?
- How will you communicate your preparation time to your people?
- Where and when do you do your preparation for your annual preaching calendar?
- Who is praying for you when you are preaching?
- What are the invitational seasons of your church?
- When is the best time to do a vision series?
- Who are the preachers you are learning from that are growing and leading a healthy church?
- Who can preach for you at least 12 times a year? From inside the church or outside the church?
- What are three things you need to do to take your preaching to a new level?
- Who do you trust to evaluate your preaching?

Conclusion:

The Lord said, *"This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word."* (Isaiah 66:2) Accepting the call to deliver the Word of God to my generation is humbling and terrifying. Being possessed by a holy fear for the Word of God is essential for church planters. This will affect the way they study, read and deliver the sacred text to the audience God has given them. Let's be prepared; let's be ready with our mind, heart and soul.