

**Introduction:**

We have a **mandate** from God to build and maintain a solid, sound understanding of the true doctrines.

Titus 1:9 (NKJV) 9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

Titus 2:1 (NKJV) 1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:

**The perpetuation of true doctrine in the church!!!!**

**Proverbs 28:2 (NKJV) 2** *Because of the transgression of a land, many are its princes; But by a man of understanding and knowledge Right will be prolonged.*

**John 7:16 (NKJV) 16** *Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.*

**Acts 2:42 (NKJV) 42** *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

**Romans 16:17 (NKJV) 17** *Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.*

**Ephesians 4:14 (NKJV) 14** *that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,*

**1 Timothy 1:3 (NKJV) 3** *As I urged you when I went into Macedonia--remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine,*

**1 Timothy 4:6-13 (NKJV) 6** *If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed...Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.*

**Sermonette/Scriptural Instruction Exercise**

An old recipe for a rabbit stew starts out, "First catch the rabbit." That puts first things first. Without the rabbit there is no dish. The obvious first questions confronting us are...

1. What shall I talk about?
2. From what passage of Scripture should I draw my sermonette?

Of course, sometimes our ideas for a sermonette or sermon come from personal experience, or something we read or hear, or perhaps our thoughts as we go about our business.

For our purposes, there are three main pools from which we draw our “kernel”, or our central point of our sermonette.

### **1. Scripture Explanation**

Sometimes we could call this a “difficult scripture”. What that means is that it is a passage that takes a bit of digging to understand. Most people are casual readers of the Bible at best. But a Bible student who is called by God to understand the Bible will compare scripture to scripture and read a variety of passage throughout the Bible to understand what a particular passage means. In addition, some scriptures are not “difficult”, but could really come to life with some preparation by the speaker to apply the passage to our current world and culture.

All sermonettes should have an anchor scripture that gives the message a focus. Not having that anchor can easily lead to us using a list of scriptures to prove OUR point, instead of expounding **the scriptures** which is our job when we stand behind the lectern to teach our brethren about God's way of life.

We often come across ideas for a “scripture explanation” as we're reading through the Bible, or perhaps studying a particular topic, and we read a powerful scripture – one that could be encouraging, or one that seems confusing, and we decide this would be a good scripture to try and explain for the congregation.

If you speak regularly, collect a list of scriptures that could be helpful to explain, bring to a modern light, or clarified. Perhaps they are mis-applied or twisted by pop-Christianity. These passages make good candidates for “scripture explanation” sermonettes. As we read through church literature, with sound explanations bringing the Bible to life, take note of passages that would make good candidates for sermonettes.

### **2. An Idea Kernel**

Perhaps we're listening to the radio and hear a song that prompts us to have an idea for a sermonette. Or maybe we're in a conversation or reading the news. Perhaps we're just about to fall asleep and an idea hits us. We don't know everything that we might say, but we've got a **kernel** of an idea. Sometimes, the idea is in response to a question, or Biblical misunderstanding, or something that we see needs to be “corrected” in other people!

What do we do next? We might think to ourselves, “this is a great idea”, and begin to **look for scriptures that will support our idea**. When we approach it this way, we might impress some people with our catchy idea. But at some point, if we make a habit out of this approach, we know in our heart that something is amiss. And then it hits us...we're using the Bible to support OUR idea! And sometimes, we're even stretching the point a bit.

The key is not to avoid having any ideas. The solution is to dig through the scriptures to see what **God has revealed**. If we're studying the Bible, reading the church literature that clearly explains the scriptures and listening to church teaching as we should, the “kernel” that has occurred to us may very well be inspired from the what we've been learning. **But if we can**

**find where that kernel or idea is expressed in the Bible, when we teach that point, we'll be using God's words, and we'll be on very solid ground.**

Find that anchor scripture that can be the core of the sermonette. Find a couple of other scriptures that really expand and reinforce, and we'll have a good, solid, Biblical message to give our brethren.

### **3. A "Topic"**

Sometimes, we need to speak on a "topic". Perhaps we're approaching the Fall Feast Days. Or maybe it is "Christmas time". Giving meat in due season is helpful and important. In fact, we see the idea of a "topical" starting point reflected in the Scriptures. For example, in **Luke 11:1-13**, Christ's disciples said, "teach us to pray".

This is a "**topical**" issue. Christ addressed a broad subject – prayer. The more focused issue was "how to". Christ then gave a focused answer in the form of "bullet points" – a template or an outline.

How did Christ take the topic of "how to pray", and turn it into focused message?

He established an SPS. His purpose was to give them a clear example of how to pray to the Father, in a step by step manner.

So, if we need to speak on a "topic", whether it be "prayer", or "Passover", we need to get out our concordance, or topical Bible, or etc., and come up with a list of scriptures about prayer. But don't just read that list of scriptures for our sermonette! Put some work and thought into it, and take a small, focused part of the broad topic to explain. We do that by reading through what the Bible has to say on the topic. Read some of our articles or booklets that explain the topic. Meditate and ask God for insight. As we do this, filling our mind with what God has to say, ideas, or kernels will come to mind. And specific, interesting, or intriguing scriptures will jump out at us. Ask who, what, where, when, how, and especially why. These questions will shine a bright light on the gems that are hidden in the Bible. Remember, settling on an anchor scripture will help us to avoid a broad, unfocused, "shotgun" approach.

### **Conclusion**

Don't forget to identify your anchor scripture, which then helps to define your Specific Purpose Statement. Use one or two other scriptures to bring added emphasis and understanding to your key point. As we go through this process, always keep in mind that we are not giving our opinion. Even though we're talking about a topic that "we" came up with, we are to preach GOD's word – not our own!