



Going Beyond the Sermon

Summer Sermons, 2021

We encourage everyone to engage with Scripture. The sermon is a starting point for going deeper into the Bible passage on your own. Use this simple tool to make notes of your takeaways, impressions, and new insights from God's word, using S.W.A.P. – A Simple Bible Encounter Method.

S – SCRIPTURE

Open your Bible and read a Scripture passage – from the sermon, lectionary, your favorite devotional guide, or some other way. Take your time reading it, listening for something God may be speaking to you. What verse, word, or phrase stands out to you? Feel free to mark up your Bible, use a journal, or make notes here.

W – WHAT DOES IT MEAN & WHAT CAN I OBEY?

Start with simply looking for what the text says. You may want to consult a trusted commentary or the notes in your Bible to hear the passage in its historical context, in addition to the pastor's teaching. Next, ask yourself, what does this passage mean to me?

Our second question, “What can I obey?” comes from Eugene Peterson, who translated *The Message*. Identify what you hear the Scripture calling you to obey.

For both questions, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you. It often helps to mark up your Bible or rewrite the passage in your own words.

A – APPLY

Personalize what you have read. How does this passage and its meaning apply to your life right now? How will you respond to its call to obey? After reading and listening to the Scripture, close your eyes, breathe deeply, and begin to contemplate the implications for your life. Boldly ask, “What is the Spirit of God speaking to me in this present moment?”

You may hear a word of comfort, encouragement, direction, correction, or wisdom. You may find a connection between the text and your own life. Or you may not. That’s okay. The key is to listen, believing in faith that God is speaking through the Word. If you need some direction, start with these questions:

What does this reveal about God?

What does this reveal about humanity?

What does this reveal about the Christian life?

How does this contrast with the world in which I live?

How does this call me to think and live differently?

P - PRAY

Speak with God. Ask God to reveal greater insight so that you may embed this Scripture deeply in your life, with whatever is going on in it. Write a simple prayer response here.

Going Beyond the Sermon is a ministry of Chapelwood United Methodist Church. To learn more about Bible study, contact Teresa Rossy, trossy@chapelwood.org. To listen to sermons online, go to www.chapelwood.org/archives.