

Building a Sermon - Five Step Framework

5. Capstone - Bring It All Together

Process:

- Revisit the opening story with resolution if it connects
 - Lay out the three pillars in sequence, showcasing the sermon's architecture
 - Call the church to build their lives on this foundation
 - Review the 3 points clearly and memorably
 - Pray for alignment between God's Word and the congregation's response
- Successful** The conclusion brings unity to the entire sermon, helping people see how all elements work together to create one compelling, Christ-centered message.

4. Keystone - The Christ Connection

Process: Identify where Jesus anchors the text. Connect His life, death, resurrection, or Spirit-presence to the passage's tension or need. Show how Christ is the key that holds all three pillars together in the arch and gives meaning to the entire structure.

Successful: Christ appears as both foundation and unifying element, creating one cohesive Gospel-centered message.

3. Pillars - 3 Supporting Points

Process: Build 3 key sections that align with the text's natural flow. Design each pillar to connect with your congregation, ensuring varied points of engagement. Anchor each segment to the sermon's central theme.

Successful: Each division flows naturally from the text (not imposed), your illustration genuinely illuminates the principle, and your application connects authentically to our people today.

1. Read the Text — Slow and Clear
2. State the Point — What's the truth here?
3. Explain the Scene — The people, need, action, teaching, or command.
4. Draw the Principle — What does this show us about God or life?
5. Add Velcro (Illustration) — Something relatable or personal to help it stick.
6. Connect — Restate the point now that people understand more.
7. Challenge — Ask a practical, pointed question that hits the need.
8. Transition Smoothly — Lead into the next section with a linking sentence.

2. Cornerstone - Consider Jesus

Before crafting your sermon structure, ask: "How would Jesus approach this topic? What does the Gospel say about this?" Let Christ's character and the Gospel message inform your thinking from the very beginning.

Successful: You can articulate how Jesus/Gospel connects to this text before you begin outlining.

1. Foundation - Enter the Text's World

Process: Gather the foundational pieces by exploring the context of the Bible passage, including its literary, historical, and emotional aspects. Stand in the writer's and reader's shoes. Survey the site: What's being constructed here? Why was it designed? How did it resonate with the first inhabitants?

Successful: You can describe the original context of the text in 2-3 clear sentences

