



Organic Disciples Preaching/Sermon Resources

Dear Friend,

I am so excited and honored that you are preaching through *Organic Disciples* with your congregation. I have gathered some materials that will help as you put each sermon/message together.

Of course, no pastor or teacher plans to take someone else's sermon and simply repeat it. That is why I am **not** offering a manuscript for you to read, but some resources for you to use as you shape your eight unique messages God wants you to bring to your congregation. What you will find in this document is a compilation of resources for each of the eight weeks of the *Organic Disciples* series. Since I am preached the same series at Shoreline Church in January and February of 2022, I am basing this preaching series on how I am coming at the biblical texts and epic discipleship themes. You can use what works for you, drop out what does not fit, and add your own content to develop Spirit-directed messages that will connect for the unique needs of the congregation you serve.

We know that each church is unique and has its own style, including which version of the Bible is referenced in a sermon, the fonts used, slide styles, and programs. For that reason, we are providing lots of content for outlines, sermon notes, and slides and are leaving it to each church to put together their weekly resources. On our website, we will also have examples (as they become available) of what Shoreline Church in Monterey, California is doing as related to the series.

You will also notice that in every sermon I have expository sections where I dig into the biblical text for the focus of each message. If you preach using an expository approach, you will find plenty of ideas for exposition, illustration, and application of the text. Just use what you find here, in the book, in the small group study, and what you research in your own sermon preparation and you can preach in a way that fits your ministry context.

As you prepare each message, I suggest you proceed with this seven-step process:

- 1) **Pray** for God's leading and the infusing power of the Spirit as you write a message that points people to what it means to grow as a disciple and reach the world with the love and truth of Jesus. Also, mobilize a team of prayer warriors to lift up this sermon series and you as you preach (and any others who might be preaching in this series).
- 2) **Read the primary biblical passage(s)** provided for each message and ask God to speak to **you** through the truth of His Word. As you and I both know, God wants to speak to us as preachers before we communicate to the congregation we serve. Keep your heart open as you prepare and let the Spirit of God infuse you with the truth of the Word of God.
- 3) **Read the corresponding section of *Organic Disciples*** and contextualize the lessons from that section of the book for your unique ministry setting. Each section of the book contains **three chapters** that focus on: First, how Jesus models faith for us. Second, how we can grow in our

spiritual maturity. Third, how our spiritual growth leads us into the world with the Good News of Jesus. (The first section of the book does not follow this pattern since it is focusing on the foundations of discipleship and evangelism).

- 4) **Watch the small group teaching for that week** (on the Organic Disciples website (organicdisciples.org) on the **Church Experience Resources** page, select **Organic Disciples Small Group Study Guide Videos**). This will give additional ideas, stories, and biblical input. Each video session has teaching that can help shape your sermon. Since Sherry and I did the video teaching as a team, you will get both of our perspectives on each week's topic.
- 5) **Review the sermon/teaching materials** provided in this document. I was intentional about giving you lots of content and even idea starters to get your heart and mind engaging in the message preparation process. I have suggestions for creative illustrations for the message and even occasional ideas for your worship service and some follow-up ideas. Let these get your creative juices flowing as you seek to bring a message that brings the truth and life of Scripture to the hearts of God's people.
- 6) **Add your own study** and ideas. God will be speaking to you about how each believer who hears the sermon can grow in their faith and naturally share the message of Jesus with lost people. Use the stories, passages, illustrations, and biblical truth God brings to your heart as you shape your message.
- 7) **Write your sermon and deliver it** with a prayerful heart, passion, joy, and conviction! This has the potential to be a life-changing and church-transforming sermon series. As I am preparing these resources, I am praying God will shape a life-impacting message in your heart that the Holy Spirit will use to impact you, your congregation, and the community where you serve Jesus!

One last, but very important note. In each of the sermons you preach about the Seven Markers of Spiritual Maturity (Sermons 2-8), I would encourage you to be intentional about reinforcing the 4 generations of discipleship (pages 9-14 in the Organic Disciples book). As you focus on Bible Engagement, illustrate what four generations of this looks like in real life. As you dig into Passionate Prayer, talk about how four generations of believers can be growing in prayer and helping each other. Keep this vision of hands connected as we help each other climb the hill of faith together. This truth from 2 Timothy 2:2 is central to growing disciples who help others grow on their journey of discipleship in all seven areas of spiritual maturity.

May the God of all truth speak to you so that He can speak through you.

With you in fulfilling the Great Commission of making disciples and reaching the world with the Gospel,

Kevin G. Harney