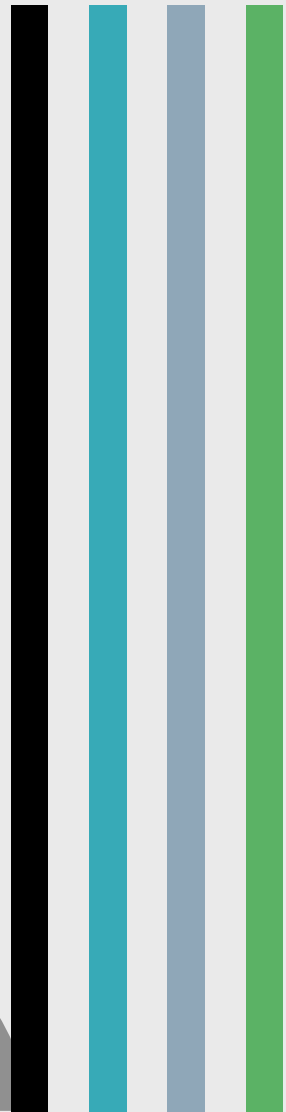


BACKPACKER
PATHWAY





GETTING STARTED

Checklist:

- 01 Review Packet
- 02 Write Your Two Sermons
- 03 Prepare Publicity
- 04 Coordinate Outreach Training
- 05 Plan Community Event
- 06 Pray, Prepare, and Equip Staff
- 07 READY. SET. OUTREACH.

Welcome

Dear Friend,

I am so excited and honored that you are preaching through the Outreach Sunday Series with your congregation. I have gathered some materials that will help as you put each sermon/message together and prepare your training and outreach event.

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 two unique messages God wants you to bring to your congregation. What you will find in this document is a compilation of resources for the two sermons, outreach training materials, and ideas for your community engagement event. Since I have preached and taught the same series, I am basing these outlines on how I have presented the biblical texts and the role and necessity of outreach in the church. 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 to 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 your church to create your resources.

As you prepare each element of this pathway, I suggest you proceed with this seven-step process:



- **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).
- **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.
- **Review the 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 provide teaching that brings the truth and life of Scripture to the hearts of God's people.
- **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.
- **Write your sermons, outreach training outline,** and deliver them with a prayerful heart, passion, joy, and conviction! This has the potential to be a life-changing and church-transforming sermon series and training. 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.
- **Watch the sample videos** to gain inspiration into some of our best practices in teaching these concepts to your congregation.

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
President and Co-Founder



What's Included?

1

SCATTER – SERMON

This sermon is preached from Luke chapter 8 as a call for all believers to scatter the seeds of the Gospel recklessly. This is an opportunity to encourage the ordinary person to engage in organic outreach with people who don't yet know Jesus.

OUTREACH TRAINING MATERIALS

2

Use this training with your church to teach and practice sharing the Gospel. Use our materials and create room for your congregation to practice sharing their own story and the story of Jesus as a way to introduce people to the life-changing Gospel invitation.

3

EIGHT WORDS THAT CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE – SERMON

This sermon is designed to clearly communicate the Gospel, the role of the church, and the invitation for all who do not yet know Jesus to accept Him and follow Him.

CHURCH/COMMUNITY EVENT

4

Plan and execute an event hosted by your church. The purpose and goal of this event is to engage with the community and create an environment of generosity, care, and genuine love for others while facilitating a space for natural outreach to occur with your newly equipped congregation.

Scatter

Sermon

Please open with the following video: [Scatter](#)

Slide – Scatter: Relentless, Reckless, Rejoicing

The start of this sermon is based on an experience I had at a small town parade. If you watch the example sermon video we provide ([Brave Church -Example](#)) you can get a sense of the story and then tell it from your own perspective. You don't have to have been there to share this kind of a story...and it is very fun!

Slide – A parade (preferably with someone throwing candy to the crowd)

If you have a picture of a small-town parade near where you live, or in your own town, this would be ideal. If not, you can find plenty online.

Slide– Why are all these people here?

Talk about how everyone shows up for a small-town parade. There is excitement and energy...and lots of kids. The kids can be restless and filled with anticipation.

Slide– Candy!

Scatter Sermon

Note – Have a bucket or bag of candy to hand out and toss out during service. Mini-candy bars... good stuff. Plan on a bucket or bag for each worship service and some extra for kids that come up after the sermon.

Slide– A Conservative, Cautions, Careful, Candy-thrower!

Describe the kind of kid who does not seem to want to throw out candy...they are waiting for the perfect moment as they roll down the parade route...and sometimes they toss out very little candy. As you describe this...do it. Have fun. Act like a kid who does not want to share the bucket of candy they have.

Slide – A Reckless, Radical, Relentless, Candy-thrower!

As you describe this kind of kid...throw out candy by the handful. Show the spirit of enthusiastic generosity.

Slide– A Reckless Story of Biblical Proportions

Slide – Luke 8:4-8

4 While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: 5 "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. 6 Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and

Scatter Sermon

choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown." When he said this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

Slide – This farmer was a seed-throwing machine. He was reckless, bold, and relentless!

Describe farmers in the ancient world and today who are very cautious with seed because it is expensive. You just don't throw it out randomly. But this farmer is reckless and wild! he throws it everywhere.

Slide– Where should we throw the seed of God's love, grace, and the message of Jesus?

As you ask the question, invite people to respond out loud. Once they have responded (and most people will get it right) have the answer come up on the screen... to affirm their declaration.

EVERYWHERE!

Note– (Have the question come in first and then the word "Everywhere" does not come in until you say it.)

Slide– A Reckless, Radical, Relentless, Candy-thrower!

Scatter Sermon

Really slow down and lean in here. Be clear that the reason we scatter the seed of the Gospel freely is that we can't know the condition of the human heart. We are not smart enough! Tell about one or two people who scattered the seed of God's love, truth, and grace into your life, even before you looked ready to receive it! Hold them up as examples of ordinary people sharing the extraordinary good news of Jesus!

Slide - Luke 9:23-24

23 Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. **24** For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.

Slide - This is the invitation of Jesus

This is a chance to remind people that, even if this stretches them and seems a bit scary, we are called to take risks and sacrifice for Jesus! Remind them that you are going to help them be equipped and ready and give the time and place for the upcoming outreach training you are offering at your church this coming week (see the 90 minute teaching outline for that event and the example video we provide).

- Deny yourself
- Take up your cross
- Follow Me

Note - Have these come in one at a time!

Slide - This is the invitation of Jesus...a call to reckless faith, that costs everything!

Scatter Sermon

You may want to review the biblical markers of spiritual maturity and let them know that sharing their faith naturally (Organic Outreach) is part of our spiritual calling. You might want to read [Organic Disciples](#) to help as you prepare for this ([order books](#))

7 Markers of Spiritual Maturity:

Bible Engagement
Passionate Prayer
Wholehearted Worship
Consistent Community
Humble Service
Joyful Generosity
Organic Outreach

Slide - How can you, as individuals and as a congregation here at _____Church, scatter the seed of the Gospel with greater passion and freedom?

1. Love people as Jesus does

Give practical examples from your life and the church you serve. Invite people to step into this kind of lifestyle!

Scatter Sermon

Slide – How can you, as individuals and as a congregation here at _____ Church, scatter the seed of the Gospel with greater passion and freedom?

2. Pray for and with people when God opens the door

Give practical examples from your life and the church you serve. Invite people to step into this kind of lifestyle! You might want to look at chapters 13 and 14 in the book, *Organic Prayer* ([order books](#))

Slide – How can you, as individuals and as a congregation here at _____ Church, scatter the seed of the Gospel with greater passion and freedom?

3. Engage freely and often in spiritual conversations

Give practical examples from your life and the church you serve. Invite people to step into this kind of lifestyle!
([read this article on building relationships with non-believers](#))

Slide – How can you, as individuals and as a congregation here at _____ Church, scatter the seed of the Gospel with greater passion and freedom?

4. Tell your story (and His story) of faith and transformation

Scatter Sermon

Give practical examples from your life and the church you serve. Invite people to step into this kind of lifestyle! You could use content in chapters 12 and 13 in the book, *Organic Outreach for Ordinary People* ([order books](#))

Slide – When you get to the end of the parade route, how much candy will you have thrown?

This is time for a personal challenge for people to engage in the call of Jesus to scatter His seed! Review the two kinds of kids in the parade. Throw candy again. Invite each person to join this journey of Jesus. Invite them to the training this week. Challenge them to pray about who they can invite to church when we hold our Outreach Sunday on __/__/___ and let them know that the message of God's love and the sacrifice of Jesus will be shared in a way everyone can understand.

Slide – How can you, as individuals and as a congregation here at _____ Church, scatter the seed of the Gospel with greater passion and freedom?

Throw candy
Pray

Scatter Sermon

Closing Challenge:

More reckless, radical, rejoicing candy thrower...

Raise your hand if you know someone who doesn't know Jesus. Pause now. Pray for them.

I want to scatter... invite... love... share... help people move toward Jesus! Pray for yourself

Join the outreach training after service/this afternoon/this evening

Invite a friend to Outreach Sunday (put date on slide & provide invitation cards)



**LEAD
LASTING
CHANGE**

Scatter Sermon

Example Video



A Reckless, Radical,



Outreach Training



The outreach training event following the Sunday sermon is designed to equip and inspire believers to take the next step in sharing the Gospel with confidence and authenticity. Building on the sermon's call for every Christian to scatter the seeds of the Gospel, the training will provide practical tools, real-world examples, and interactive exercises to help participants engage their communities with love and intentionality. This session will be approachable and hands-on, emphasizing that outreach is a natural overflow of our faith and relationships. Attendees will leave encouraged and equipped to step into their unique role in advancing God's Kingdom.

Take notes from this example and make the training unique to your congregation. Or, just use this video and handout!

Outline Materials



Handouts

Gospel
G.O.G.O.

Testimony
Exercise

Eight Words Sermon



In this message, we will look closely at the best and most powerful story ever told. In just eight simple and memorable words we can remember the four movements of God's plan to offer grace, truth, and life to all who will receive His amazing gift. In the previous message, we focused on how every follower of Jesus can naturally scatter the Good News of Jesus in the flow of a normal day... wherever we go. You also did a training time teaching people in your church how to share their stories, God's story, and the stories of others who have encountered Jesus in their lives. This week we will lean into the Gospel message of Jesus. By the end of the sermon, people will understand how anyone can receive the saving grace of Jesus and take His hand so they can follow Him in this life and for eternity. People will be invited to pray and receive God's forgiveness and leadership in their life. For those who already know and love Jesus, they will get another perspective on how they can organically share the Good News of Jesus.

Sermon Preparation Notes - Outline



Outreach Event

This part of the pathway is entirely up to you. Work with your team to develop ideas that fit your church culture and context.

Use [this innovation sheet](#) to launch a brainstorm meeting in order to develop new ideas and plan them!

Ideas to get you started:

- BBQ Lunch - prepared by church volunteers/ministry
- Breakfast/Brunch - prepared by church volunteers/ministry
- Superbowl Party
- Olympics or other Watch Party
- Off-Campus Picnic at Park or Beach with Yard Games for Kids
- Mini Games event
 - [Mini golf](#)
 - [Soccer darts](#)
 - [Axe throwing](#)
 - [Field goal challenge](#)
 - [Shooting gallery](#)
 - Any other kind of competition you can think of
- Fall Festival (Pumpkin Patch, Carnival Games)

Goal:

This should be a time to love your community and foster an environment of joy and hospitality where your church can have eyes, ears, and hearts open to pray for individuals and share the Gospel.

Graphics Samples

Part 1

Outreach Training

The Outreach Training isn't just about one event; it's about building a culture of intentional evangelism and discipleship within your church. This step in the Backpacker Pathway ensures every member feels confident and prepared to live out their role in the Great Commission.

Part 2

Outreach Event

This event is designed to inspire and equip your congregation to boldly invite friends, neighbors, and community members to experience the love of Christ. You will celebrate the mission of the church to share the Gospel and provide next steps for those exploring or committing to faith. You will do all of this while fostering the heart of the church to love God and love your neighbor.

New Believer Resources

[50-DAY BIBLE READING PLAN \(SAMPLE\)](#)

[NEXT STEPS CARD \(SAMPLE\)](#)

BASIC DISCIPLESHIP FOLLOW-UP

[Spiritual Markers Assessment](#) [Spiritual Growth Plan](#)

[ORGANIC PRAYER](#)



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