


# Preparing a Yearly Sermonic Calendar

*Plan with Purpose. Preach with Confidence.*



**NADEI LIVE!** with Tim Madding

 **Tuesday, January 20 at 1:00 PM Eastern**

## Welcome

A strong preaching ministry doesn't happen by accident—it's built with prayerful planning and intentional strategy. Pastors often feel the pressure of week-to-week sermon preparation, leaving little time to ensure balance, depth, and long-term direction.

Designed to help pastors and church leaders **plan ahead with prayerful intentionality**, reducing weekly pressure while increasing clarity, balance, and spiritual impact in preaching, this workshop shares how to develop a one-year preaching strategy that provides well-rounded, Christ-centered message content. This practical webinar will help you plan sermons that address biblical foundations, discipleship, outreach, and the real needs of your congregation—while reducing stress and increasing clarity.

*“God does not generally work miracles to advance His truth. He works according to great principles made known to us, and it is our part to mature wise plans and set in operation the means whereby God shall bring about certain results.”*

— Ellen White, *Christian Service*, p. 228

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## What This is About

### This seminar is not about:

- Being told *what* to preach

### This seminar *is* about:

- Learning to **plan ahead** with purpose
- Creating space for the **Holy Spirit** to guide, refine, and redirect

### Reflection:

What emotions best describe your current sermon-planning rhythm?

- Peaceful    Rushed    Reactive    Inspired    Exhausted

Notes:

## Benefits of a Yearly Sermonic Calendar

Having a well-planned sermonic calendar offers numerous advantages. Intentional planning is not restrictive—it is freeing.

### Benefits include:

- Enables long-term vision and **strategic planning** for teaching and discipleship
- Greater **intentionality** in preaching themes
- Significant **time savings** week to week
- Ability to **promote sermon series** in advance
- Reduced stress and avoidance of “panic mode” preparation

### Reflection Prompt:

Which of these benefits would most help your ministry right now?

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## Approach with a Prayerful Heart

A sermon calendar should be shaped by **dependence on God**, not merely efficiency.

### **Proverbs 3:5–6**

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”*

### **Proverbs 19:21**

*“Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”*

### **Proverbs 16:9**

*“In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.”*

### **Guided Prayer Space:**

Ask God to guide your vision for the coming year.

Notes:

## Begin with a Calendar

Planning starts with seeing the whole year at a glance.

### **Steps:**

- Create a planning file (calendar, Word, Pages, spreadsheet, etc.)
- Add **all Sabbath worship services** for the year

### **Application:**

What planning tool will you commit to using?

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## Identify All Special Events

Before filling in sermons, mark the *non-negotiables on your calendar*.

### a. Personal Commitments

- Vacations, time with family

### b. U.S. Holidays

- New Year's Day — January 1
- Valentine's Day — February 14
- Easter — April 5
- Mother's Day — May 10
- Juneteenth — June 19
- Father's Day — June 21
- Independence Day — July 4
- Halloween — October 31
- Thanksgiving — November 26
- Christmas — December 25

### c. Conference Events

- Pastor's Meetings
- Hispanic Lay Festival
- Elder's Retreat
- Camp Meeting / Regional Camp Meeting
- Pastor-Teacher Spiritual Retreat
- Other:

### d. Educational Conferences & Retreats

- Personal spiritual retreats
- Leadership conferences

### e. Church Events

- Communion services (4 per year)
- Reaping events (prophecy series, etc.)
- Women's, Men's, and Youth events
- Adventurers & Pathfinders
- School programs (start/end of school, graduations, concerts)
- Vacation Bible School
- Religious Liberty emphasis
- Other:

### f. Community & Special Events

- Other Adventist churches
- Fairs, convocations, festivals, etc.

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## Identify Available Sabbaths

With events marked, identify available preaching opportunities.

### Key Questions:

- Which Sabbaths **remain** open?
- Where do sermon **blocks** exist (multiple Sabbaths in a row)?
- Which blocks should be **intentionally reserved**?
- Where are there **single standing** Sabbaths?

### Planning Space:

## A Balanced Approach to Scripture

A healthy preaching calendar includes balance and variety, ensuring a balanced approach to Scripture, covering various genres, themes, and authors.

### Common sermon series categories:

- Visioncasting & Mission
- Stewardship
- Specific needs (marriage, anger, health, etc.)
- Evangelism
- Bible book or passage studies
- Doctrinal themes
- Christian living (prayer, Bible study, obedience, spiritual disciplines, etc)
- Prophecy

### Reflection:

Which categories have been overused or underused in your recent preaching?

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## Final Reflection & Next Steps

### Some things to consider:

- Be flexible: Sometimes, circumstances and **plans change**
- Stay **focused**: Use the time to prepare ahead
- Preach Series: People are **more likely** to return for next part and allow you to do deeper into a subject
- Equip others: Have elders (or others) preach in a series, using it as an opportunity to **equip them** as better preachers
- Guest Speakers: Consider having guest speakers preach in a series or speak on a **specific subject** for you

Remember that intentional planning does not replace the Spirit—it **creates space for Him to work**.

### Action Step:

One concrete step I will take this week to begin or refine my yearly sermonic calendar:

### Closing Prayer:

*“Lord, guide my plans, shape my preaching, and use Your Word to transform lives.”*