

# THE HOLE IN OUR GOSPEL

SIX-WEEK QUEST

## THE METHOD TO THE MESSAGES USING THE HOLE IN OUR GOSPEL SERMON SERIES RESOURCE

Dear Pastor,

Many sermons today are heavy on information, but light on transformation. They aim at people's heads, but may miss people's hearts, souls, and strength. They don't speak to the whole person. In other words, there is a hole in our message.

The goal of this resource is to help you speak to the whole person. To help you accomplish this goal, each sermon has been laid out in 5 parts. This method answers a sequence of five questions people naturally ask themselves as you speak.

If you respond to the questions that your listeners are silently asking, your message can penetrate their ears, hearts, minds, souls, and strength. Here's a brief synopsis of the method (flow) of each message based upon the five questions people ask:

### 1. INTRODUCE THE TOPIC

When you begin your message, people are asking the first question: **"What are you talking about?"** When it comes to preaching a sermon, this seems to be a relatively easy question to answer, but you wouldn't believe how many people leave after hearing a message wondering what on earth the preacher talked about. Be sure you clearly introduce your sermon's topic. You can do this with a fresh

illustration from the world's news, a movie clip, a quote, statistics, or a personal anecdote.

### 2. INTENSIFY THE ISSUE

If people know what your topic is, they'll naturally ask the second question: **"Why should I care about this topic?"** Make sure you probe and personalize the problem. If you don't show people why the topic or problem matters to them, they won't care about your solutions. So how can you get to the heart of the matter? You can do this by intensifying the issue and identifying with the problem. (Jesus sympathizes with our weaknesses, and was tempted in every way. Surely you too can sympathize and identify with many of the problems people face.) This method also shows how biblical characters can identify with our problems.

### 3. INSTRUCT WITH THE BIBLE

If you convince people why your topic matters to them, they'll silently ask the third question: **"What's the solution?"** When people realize they care about this issue, they're now looking for an answer—more specifically, God's answer. They don't just want facts. They want God's perspective. They want a solution. They want understanding and clarity. You can do this by instructing them with the Bible and saying it in a way they can understand.

## 4. IMAGINE THE RESULT

When people understand your point (God's point), they'll ask the fourth question:

**"What's the consequence of believing your point?"** People need to personalize the main point. They need to see what the future looks like if they obey or disobey. Jesus did this at the end of the Sermon on the Mount when he spoke of the two builders (Luke 6:46-49). You can do this by helping others to imagine the results of being obedient or disobedient, and give them the opportunity to obey.

## 5. ILLUSTRATE THE APPLICATION

When people have personalized the message, they'll ask the fifth (and final) question: **"What should I do now and how?"** You can do this by illustrating the application. Don't just tell them what to do; you need to also show them how to do it. Give them a plan of action. Give them a take-home application. Whatever it is, make sure they leave knowing what to do and how to do it.

## PREPARE AND PERSONALIZE

This structure helps you prepare your sermon in a way that speaks to the whole person, but it also allows you to personalize it and tweak it in ways that best suit your church and your style.

The sermons in this resource are not manuscripts, rather they are outlines with suggested talking points. Feel free to adapt to your unique voice and audience.

