

# Work with Purpose Sermon Competition: Judging Rubric

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A panel of judges will review sermon videos. Scoring will be based on five areas:

## 1. Clear Structure and Communication Style

- Does the sermon take the listener somewhere? Does the sermon have a beginning or introduction that invites the listener to engage? Does it tell the listener what God has to say about the topic? Does it push the listener toward transformation?
- Does the pastor seem comfortable with presenting? Are there verbal "umms" or pauses that distract? Is the pastor's use of body movement helpful or distracting?

## 2. Solid Biblical Exegesis and Hermeneutic

- Does the sermon demonstrate contextual thinking (taking into account both cultural context and literary context)? Does it help the audience see the text in its context, both thematically and historically?
- Is the Bible the foundation of what this person is saying? Is it clear that the authority of the pastor comes from the Word of God?
- Does the sermon help the listener look at the text in ways that are faithful to the original author's intended meaning?
- Is the pastor using biblical text simply to prove her or his own ideas, or is the point of the sermon derived from the text?
- Does the sermon leave the listener with a greater understanding of God's Word as it applies to life?
- If the biblical text is not a focus of the sermon, does the sermon still reflect biblical truth? Is it evident the pastor was preaching to a non-believing audience?

## 3. Personal Spiritual Formation of the Pastor

- Did the pastor reveal how this message affected her or him?
- Is it evident how this person's relationship with God affected her or his message?
- Did the pastor invite the audience to be spiritually formed by God?
- Was there a personal or communal application for the lives of the listeners?

## 4. Insightful Understanding of the Audience, Context, or Community

- Is there an audience this sermon would connect with?
- Did the pastor make an effort to communicate in terms that an audience could easily understand?
- Did she or he use language that was accessible to a relatively broad audience?

## 5. Insightful Understanding of Congregant Evaluations

- Did the pastor thoughtfully address comments, praises, or criticisms from congregant evaluations in her or his written report?

