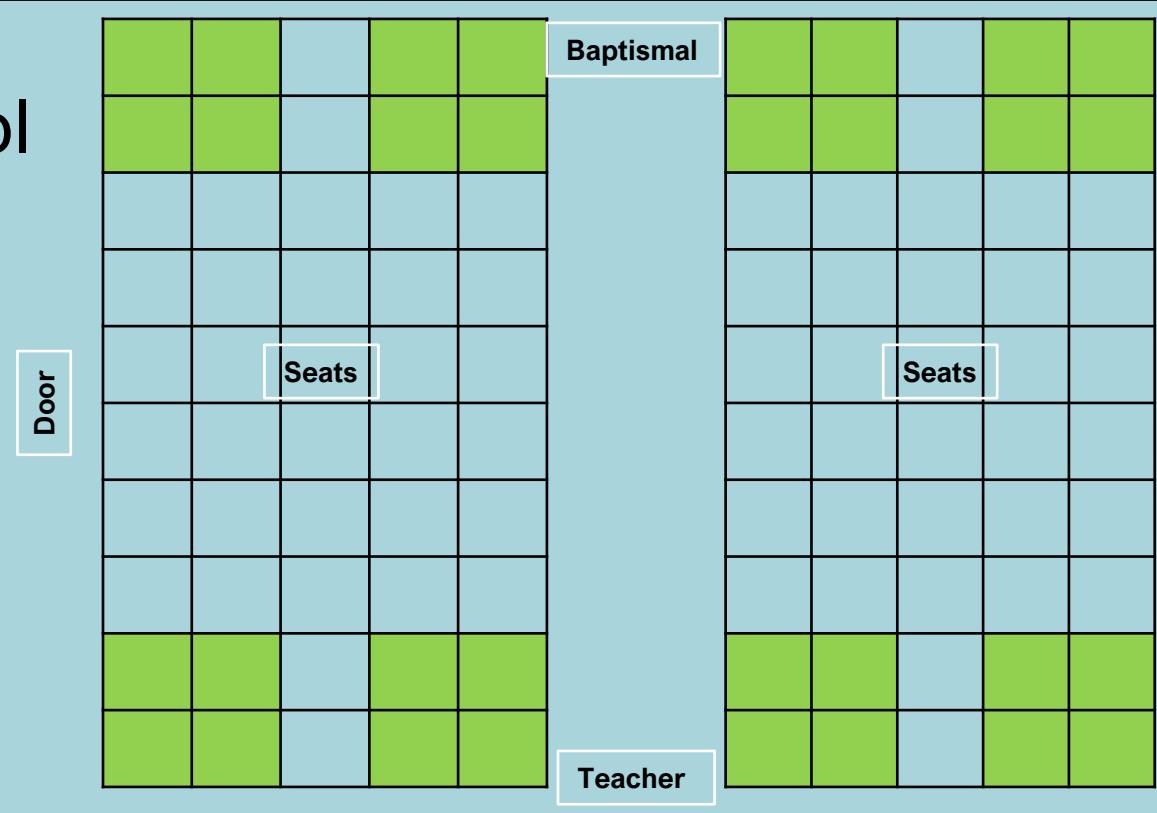


Back to the Basics: Expository Preaching & Catechism

2025 Summer Sunday School

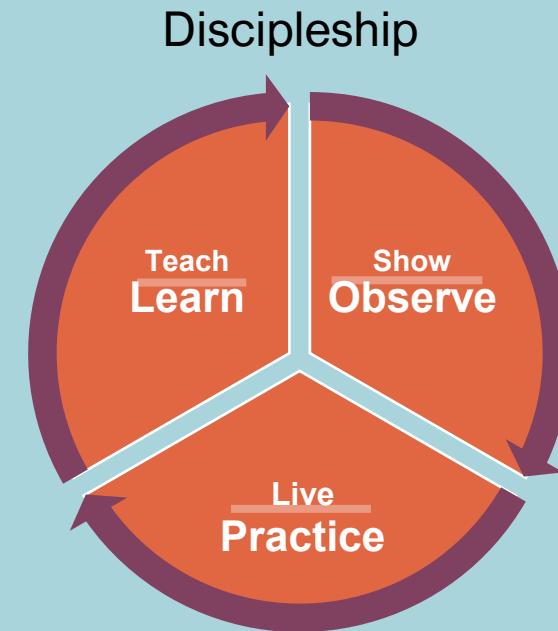
Please sit in these sections

Bethlehem Bible Church



8 Topics Preview

1. Expository Preaching	&	Catechism
2. Biblical Counseling	&	Family Worship
3. Church Membership	&	Discipleship
4. One-on-One Discipleship	&	Home Visits
5. Church Discipline	&	Evangelism
6. Ministry Apprenticeship	&	Fellowship
7. Prayer	&	Serving
8. Mercy Ministry	&	Review



Topic 1: Expository Preaching & Catechism

Objective

1. **Learn to engage** with expository preaching and catechism to deepen faith,
2. **Observing** individual applications and
3. **Practicing** through BBC ministries and home life, using Luke 9:23–27 to grow in Christ.





Learning

Expository Preaching: BBC's verse-by-verse teaching reveals the truth of **Scripture** (2 Timothy 4:2).

- **Engage Sermons:** Listen actively and apply (See **Learning Details** Handout).
- **Example:** Luke 9:23–27 Teaches self-denial, connecting to Q. 21's focus on Jesus as Redeemer.

*If anyone would come **after me**, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and **follow me**. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for **my sake** will save it.*



Catechism: Structured doctrine clarifies faith, aligning with BBC's 1689 **Confession** (bbcchurch.org/statement-of-faith).

- **Study Catechism:** Memorize and Understand *Westminster Shorter Catechism*
- **Example:** Christ as Redeemer

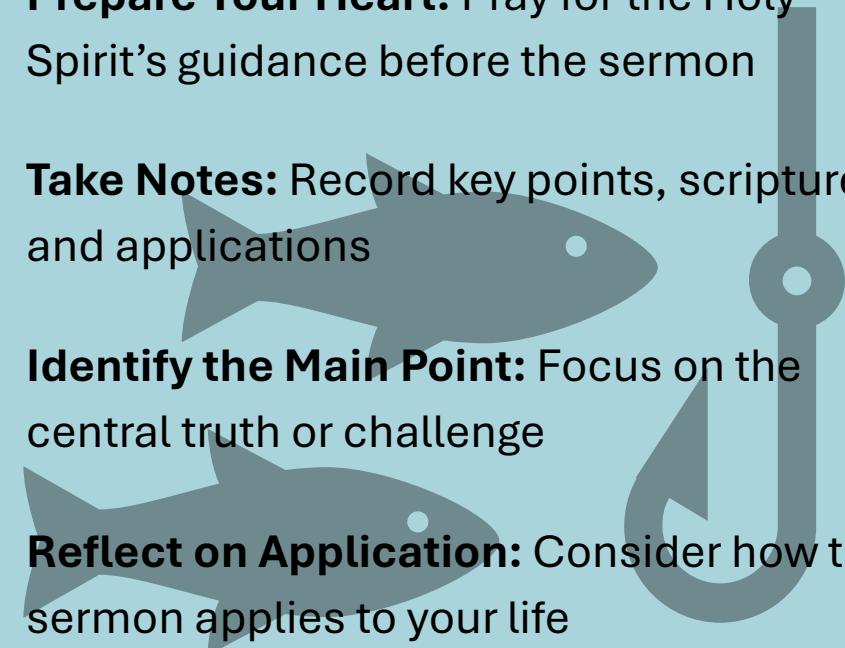
Q. 21 Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?
*The only Redeemer of God's elect is the **Lord Jesus Christ**.*



Learning: Method and Application

Method (Fishing Rod): Listening

- **Prepare Your Heart:** Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance before the sermon
- **Take Notes:** Record key points, scriptures, and applications
- **Identify the Main Point:** Focus on the central truth or challenge
- **Reflect on Application:** Consider how the sermon applies to your life



Apply (Fish): Luke 9:23-27 (Discipleship)

- Pray for openness to Jesus' call to self-denial.
- Note "take up his cross daily" (v. 23) and the promise of eternal life (v. 24).
- Identify the main point: Discipleship requires daily sacrifice.
- Reflect on applying self-denial by serving others at BBC.



Memorize / Internalize

Example: Luke 9:23–27

Jesus' call to deny self and follow Him

Scripture (Luke 9:23)

*“And he said to all,
 ‘If anyone would come after me,
 let him deny himself and
 take up his cross daily and
 follow me.’”*

Catechism

Q. 21 Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

A: *The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Q. 1 What is the chief end of man?

A: *Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.*

Bonus

Q. 2 What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

A: *The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.*



Week 1: Expository Preaching - Learning

How I can Learn from an Expository Sermon

Approach an expository sermon (*verse-by-verse teaching that reveals Scripture's context, meaning, and application*) with humility, intentionality, and a desire to grow in Christ.

By preparing my heart, listening actively, reflecting deeply, and applying the sermon's truths, I internalize God's Word and live it out in my daily walk.

- 1. Prepare Your Heart with Prayer and Expectation**
- 2. Listen Actively with Focus and Notetaking**
- 3. Identify the Main Point and Reflect Deeply**
- 4. Apply the Sermon Through Action and Accountability**



1. Prepare Your Heart with Prayer and Expectation

Why?

- God's Word is God speaking to me. Do I want to receive it with reverence, humility ([James 1:21](#)), and love?
- Understanding God's Word requires the Holy Spirit's illumination ([1 Corinthians 2:12–14](#)).
- Prayer opens my heart to receive his wondrous truth ([Psalm 119:18](#)).

How?

- **Before Service:** Spend 2–3 mins praying, ask God to soften your heart, remove distractions, reveal His truth through the sermon.
- **Be Expectant:** Approach the sermon expecting God to speak, trusting that His Word is living and active ([Hebrews 4:12](#)).
- **Confess Sin:** Acknowledge any known sin that might hinder receptivity, seeking forgiveness ([Psalm 66:18](#)).

Example: Before hearing the sermon on Luke 9:23–27 (find the passage first... and then...), pray along these lines, “Lord, open my eyes to what it means to deny myself and follow You daily, and show me where I need to surrender.”

Practical Tip: Arrive early to service, sit quietly, and use a prayer like Ps 119:18 to focus your mind.



2. Listen Actively with Focus and Notetaking

Why? Active listening engages the mind and heart, helping retain and process the sermon's message ([Proverbs 4:2](#)). Expository preaching unfolds Scripture's depth, requiring attention to context, doctrine, and application.

How?

- **Bring Tools:** Jot down the sermon's main point, key verses, and supporting ideas in a notebook or device. Use your mind to remind/repeat if you don't have tools.
- **Follow the Structure:** Note the passage's context (e.g., historical setting, author's intent), the doctrinal truth, and the pastor's applications.
- **Capture Applications:** Write down 1–2 specific ways the sermon challenges or encourages you to act.
- **Minimize Distractions:** Silence your phone, and close other apps. Sit away from distractions, maintain eye contact with the preacher and constantly refer to the scripture text to stay engaged.

Example with Luke 9:23–27: During a sermon on Luke 9:23–27, note:

- Context: Jesus teaches His disciples about the cost of following Him.
- Truth: Discipleship requires daily self-denial and commitment to Christ.
- Application: Sacrifice personal time to serve, reflecting the call to “take up his cross.”

Practical Tip: Simple note-taking template: Passage, Main Point(s), Key Truth, Personal Application.

[Back to the Basics](#)

June 22, 2025



3. Identify the Main Point and Reflect Deeply

Why? Expository sermons aim to convey a central biblical truth for life change ([2 Timothy 3:16–17](#)).

Reflecting on this truth connects it to your personal walk ([Psalm 1:2](#)).

How?

- **Pinpoint the Truth:** Ask, “What is the one truth God wants me to grasp?” Look for the pastor’s repeated emphasis or the passage’s core message.
- **Meditate on the Passage:** Reread the sermon text later that day, using a Bible app or physical Bible, to internalize its meaning.
- **Ask Reflective Questions:** How does this truth reveal God’s character? Where am I falling short? How can I grow in this area?
- **Connect to Doctrine:** Relate the sermon to catechism (e.g., [Westminster](#) Q. 21 for Christ’s work) to deepen understanding.

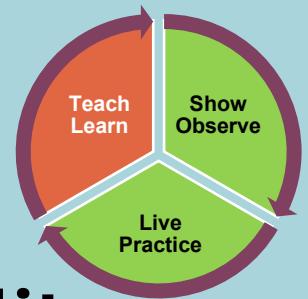
Example: For Luke 9:23–27, following Jesus requires daily self-denial and prioritizing Him above all.

Reflect: “*God calls me to put Christ first. I often prioritize comfort—how can I sacrifice for others?*”

Connect to Q. 21, noting Jesus as Redeemer motivates your obedience – “*How far am I willing to follow my Redeemer today?*”

Practical Tip: Set aside 5–10 minutes after church to reread the passage.

Journal one reflection, e.g., “*How can I apply this truth tomorrow?*”



4. Apply the Sermon Through Action and Accountability

Why? Seek to be a doer of the Word, not just a hearer ([James 1:22–25](#)).

Application transforms knowledge into obedience, especially through BBC's ministries and home life.

How? (Some suggestions below – actively seek your LORD: You deal with your God – the Lord of your life.)

- **Choose a Specific Action:** Select one practical step to apply the sermon, prioritizing church involvement (e.g., joining a ministry) or home leadership (e.g., family devotions).
- **Start Small:** Focus on a manageable change, like one conversation or task, to build consistency.
- **Seek Accountability:** Share your goal with a trusted friend, Home Group member, or spouse, asking them to check in weekly.
- **Pray for Strength:** Ask God daily to help you live out the application ([Philippians 4:13](#)).

Example: After the Luke 9:23–27 sermon, you decide to:

- **Action:** Join Home Groups to discuss and practice self-denial (v. 23).
- **Small Step:** Give up a personal hobby night to attend Home Group and encourage others.
- **Accountability:** Ask a Home Group friend to check if you're prioritizing group time.
- **Prayer:** Pray, “Lord, help me deny myself and follow You in Home Groups.”

Practical Tip: Write your action step in your notes (e.g., “Join Greeters to practice kind speech”)

Share it with a partner during BBC's Sunday School pair-sharing.



Practical Example at BBC

Last Sunday, Pastor Mike preached on Luke 9:23–27. Here's one way you can apply this guidance:

- **Saturday Night:** Pray, “*Lord, prepare me to hear Your call to follow You tomorrow.*”
- **Sunday Morning:** Arrive early, silence phone and pray Psalm 119:18. During sermon, note:
 - Main Point: Discipleship requires daily self-denial.
 - Application: Sacrifice time to serve in Meals Ministry (Contact Spencer Kennard).
- **Sunday Afternoon:** Reread Luke 9:23–27, reflecting, “*I prioritize my schedule—how can I put Christ first?*” Connect to Q. 21, seeing love for Jesus as Redeemer and Lord as the reason to follow Him.
- **Monday:** Join Meals Ministry, committing to serve a meal. Shares goal with a friend for accountability.
- **Week's End:** Reflect on serving, noting growth in self-denial, thank God, and pray for consistency.



Key Takeaways

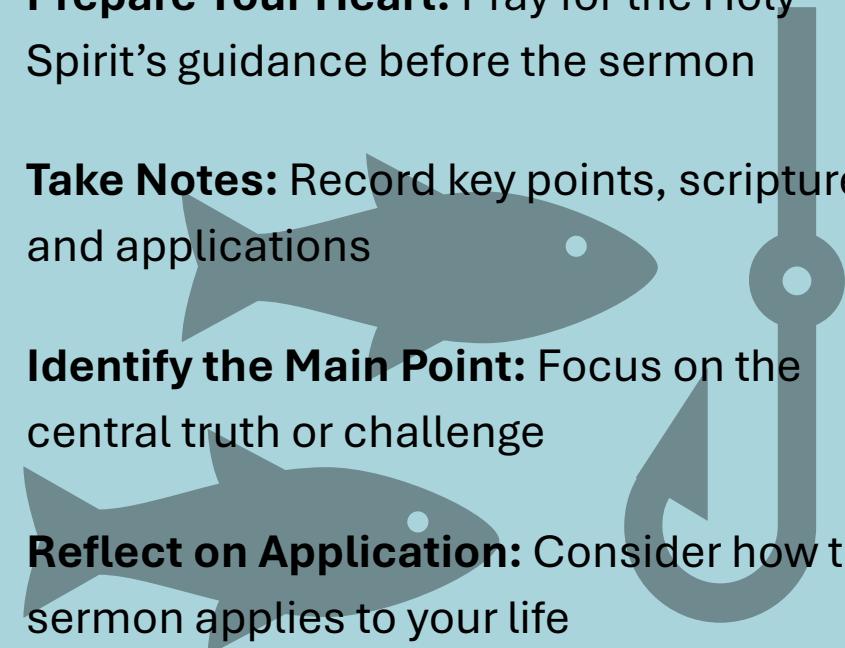
- **Humble Dependence**
 - Rely on the Spirit through prayer to receive the sermon ([John 16:13](#)).
- **Intentional Engagement**
 - Listen actively with notes to retain truth ([Luke 8:15](#)).
- **Deep Reflection**
 - Meditate on the sermon's truth to align with God's will ([Joshua 1:8](#)).
- **Faithful Action**
 - Apply the sermon through BBC ministries (e.g., Greeters/Gary Lozeau, AWANA/Taylor Crane) or at Home to grow in obedience ([Matthew 7:24](#)).



Learning: Method and Application

Method (Fishing Rod): Listening

- **Prepare Your Heart:** Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance before the sermon
- **Take Notes:** Record key points, scriptures, and applications
- **Identify the Main Point:** Focus on the central truth or challenge
- **Reflect on Application:** Consider how the sermon applies to your life



Apply (Fish): Luke 9:23-27 (Discipleship)

- Pray for openness to Jesus' call to self-denial.
- Note "take up his cross daily" (v. 23) and the promise of eternal life (v. 24).
- Identify the main point: Discipleship requires daily sacrifice.
- Reflect on applying self-denial by serving others at BBC.

Week 1: Expository Preaching & Catechism

Objective

1. **Learn to engage** with expository preaching and catechism to deepen faith,
2. **Observing** individual applications and
3. **Practicing** through BBC ministries and home life, using Luke 9:23–27 to grow in Christ.





Observing (Small Groups, 15 min)

Method (Fishing Rod)

How do others (and I) apply sermons / catechism?

- **Prepare Your Heart:** How has someone at BBC sought the Holy Spirit's guidance before the sermon? _____
- **Take Notes:** Who records and recounts key points and applications? _____
- **Identify the Main Point:** How does this person grasp the central truth? _____
- **Reflect on Application:** Who is intentional in applying the sermon and showing fruit in their lives? Can I imitate? _____

Observe: Name(s): _____

Area: _____

Apply (Fish)

Ex: How do individuals apply Luke 9:23 and Q.21?

- **Church-Life:** How has someone at BBC applied Luke 9:23, like sacrificing time to help a member? _____
- **Home:** How has a parent taught Q. 21 to children? _____
- **Work:** How has someone shown integrity after Luke 9:23? _____
- **Neighborhood:** How has someone shared Q. 21 with a neighbor? _____



Observing (Small Groups, 15 min)

Consider how you are doing in these areas and share with the group. Listen as others share with you.

1 2 3 4 5

Showing (Method or Application – 10 m)

Share where you have grown (to listen to Sermons better and to study Catechism)

- Remember: God gave you your desires and ability, so this is not self-boasting (Phil. 2:12-13)
- Acknowledge God with a thankful heart to glorify God and to help others
- Remember that we are all growing in Christ, so you can praise God for any measure of growth
- It's ok to say that there is nothing to share now

6 7 8 9 10

Observing (Method)

Listen to how others have grown, where you now can learn and grow in grace

- Remember: You can express your love for God by obeying his commandments (John 14:15)
- Seek to know God more – to enjoy him and to glorify him
- Seek to grow in Christ intentionally

1 2 3 4 5

One or two people from each group can share what you learned with all – 5m



Practicing (Pair-Sharing, 10 min)

Method (Fishing Rod)

How will you apply sermons or catechism?

- **Prepare Your Heart:** How do I intend to change my preparation today? _____
- **Take Notes:** How will I record the key points in my mind to recount it? _____
- **Identify the Main Point:** Check if I got the main point. If not, ask someone. _____
- **Reflect on Application:** What specific area does the text apply in my life today. _____

Apply (Fish)

Ex: How do I apply the specific texts (Luke 9:23, Q1, Q2, Q21) today?

- **Church:** Can I join Home Groups (Jonathan) to live out v. 23? What challenges are there? _____
- **Church:** Can I serve in Meals Ministry (Spencer)? What obstacles are there? _____
- **Home:** How can I teach Q. 21 with AWANA (Taylor) or at home? What barriers should I consider? _____
- **Home:** How can I lead my wife or child in prayer (v. 23)? What fears do I have? _____



Practicing (Small Groups, 10 min)

Take a minute to fill out the handout

In your group, pick one person with whom you can share what you have filled out and listen to them

5 minutes

1

2

3

4

5

Showing (Method or Application)

- Just walk through your thinking
- Listen to any feedback you may get
- Consider the Lord whom you seek to please

Observing (Method)

- Listen to the other person's thoughts
- Ask any questions if something is unclear
- Provide any insights you may have

One or two people from each group can share what you learned with all – 5 minutes

1

2

3

4

5



Ministry Connections

Apply Luke 9:23 by joining a BBC ministry (bbcchurch.org/ministries)

- **Greeters** (Gary Lozeau)
- **Ushers** (Jose Burgos)
- **Home Groups** (Jonathan Ferreira)
- **Prayer Teams** (Jose Burgos)
- **Evangelism, CONNECT** (Jonathan Ferreira)
- **Meals Ministry** (Spencer Kennard)
- **Children's Ministry** (Mark Krans)
- **AWANA** (Taylor Crane)

Key Takeaways for Reflection

- **Listen Actively:** Pray and note Preaching points to apply Luke 9:23 (today's text).
- **Learn from Others:** Reflect on individual examples of self-denial or doctrine.
- **Serve at BBC:** Join a ministry to live out sermons and catechism.
- **Lead at Home:** Teach Q. 21 or model Luke 9:23 for your family.

Week 1: Expository Preaching & Catechism

Objective

1. **Learn to engage** with expository preaching and catechism to deepen faith,
2. **Observing** individual applications and
3. **Practicing** through BBC ministries and home life, using Luke 9:23–27 to grow in Christ.



8 Topics Preview

1. Expository Preaching	&	Catechism
2. Biblical Counseling	&	Family Worship
3. Church Membership	&	Discipleship
4. One-on-One Discipleship	&	Home Visits
5. Church Discipline	&	Evangelism
6. Ministry Apprenticeship	&	Fellowship
7. Prayer	&	Serving
8. Mercy Ministry	&	Review

