

Spiritual disciplines for a healthy church
3. Why do we preach?

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Introduction

- *Modern challenges to preaching?*
- **Four questions:**

What is expositional preaching?

- *“The point of the passage is the point of the sermon”*

Where do we see this in the Bible?

- Jesus and the apostles (Luke 4:21, 24:27, 1 Tim. 4:13, 2 Tim. 4:2)
- The prophets and the priests (Deut. 33:10, Neh. 8:1-8)

Why is expositional preaching so important?

- God speaks (Jer. 10:3-5, 6, John 1:18)
- God’s Word is powerful (Gen. 1, Gen. 12, Rom. 1:16)
- God’s Word is life-giving (Matt. 4:4, 1 Peter 1:23)

How can I make the most of the preaching at Ambassador?

- Before
- During
- After

Conclusion

Nehemiah 8v1-8 (NIV)

¹ all the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel.

² So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. ³ He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

⁴ Ezra the teacher of the Law stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion. Beside him on his right stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah and Maaseiah; and on his left were Pedaiah, Mishael, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam.

⁵ Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. ⁶ Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, “Amen! Amen!” Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

⁷ The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah— instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. ⁸ They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.