**Tips for Preaching Without a Manuscript**

The most important thing about preaching a sermon without a manuscript is to tell the sermon in your own words in your own way.

1. Write your sermon manuscript.
2. Read the manuscript several times.
3. Tell it in your own words without looking at the manuscript.
4. Read the manuscript again to see if you left out any important points.
5. Tell it again, making it your own.
6. Make the listeners “feel “and “see” the sermon by:
   * Using simple words. Remember people only remember half of what they hear. Use words that will evoke pictures in the listeners’ minds. If you can picture the scene in your mind as you relate the sermon, the listeners will be able to also.
   * Using dialogue whenever possible—say the words the way that the characters would. You can use a slight accent or dialect, but not too strong because people will be distracted by the accent and forget to follow the sermon line.
   * Being consistent with vocal expressions and different pitch or tone of voice for each character’s lines if they are used; then you do not have to always state who said what because people will know by the tone of voice or your body posture.
   * Using appropriate gestures. Inappropriate gestures may distract from the words.