



Prepare for a Preaching License using Backstory Preaching's Sermon Camp

Course Description

Over the course of seven weeks, you will learn an adaptable rhythm of sermon preparation so you routinely complete your sermons by Friday. This rhythm incorporates your spirituality so you preach Good News you believe, and preach it more effectively. This process of studying the sermon text is adapted from the ancient rhythm of Lectio Divina: read, study, express, and pray. While you will learn to employ this process over five contiguous days, it is expected you will adapt this process and schedule to suit your personality and calendar. In addition, you will learn and apply BsP's "Heart of the Message" process to clarify and articulate your sermon's message and content. You will also appraise sermons based on BsP's definition of an effective sermon, with two sermons of your own and two of your peers. By the end of this course you will:

1. Write better sermons faster.
2. Consistently complete your sermons on your desired schedule.
3. Grow closer to God in the process of sermon prep.
4. Create a sermon prep process to sustain you throughout your ministry.
5. Preach into the uncertain state of the world.

Based on the backstory Preaching's *Craft an Effective Sermon by Friday*, Sermon Camp provides an ideal combination of synchronous meetings online, independent practice, and interactive support.

- Once registered, you'll receive information from your mentor, a detailed calendar, and *Craft an Effective Sermon by Friday*.
- During Kickoff Week, you'll meet online daily for an accelerated introduction to the process (includes BsP's 5-Day Accelerated Video Roadmap) to learn the process to craft a meaningful sermon on your own schedule.
- For the next seven weeks, we'll meet live online one hour each week for Q&A, office hours, and additional teaching as you work through the chapters of the eCourse and begin implementing the principles you're learning.
- BONUS: you'll be invited to join a private online group with additional resources for mutual support around the clock.

Course Environment

This is an online course with live and recorded instruction; asynchronous large and small group discussions; live Zoom sessions for discussion and Q & A; and two peer-appraised sermons. All assignments and course interactions require active participation and rely on software and internet technology. Together, these tools are designed to facilitate community, collaboration, and learning.

Instructors



The Rev'd Dr. Lisa Cressman is an Episcopal priest and spiritual director of more than 25 years (M.Div., Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley; D.Min., Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis), serving congregations in Indianapolis, Minnesota, and Texas before becoming the Founding Steward of Backstory Preaching. Launched in 2016, BsP is the first and only online "conference center" to help preachers thrive in the craft, process, and spirituality of their preaching. I've published two books on preaching, *Backstory Preaching: Integrating Life, Spirituality, and Craft* (The Liturgical Press, 2018), and *The Gospel People Don't Want to Hear: Preaching Challenging Messages* (Fortress Press/Working Preacher Books, 2020).



The Rev. Susan R. Ironside, is an Episcopal priest serving as Rector of Grace Church, Madison, NJ. A faculty member for the Episcopal Preaching Foundation, she graduated from General theological Seminary in 2010 and received their Bishop of Newark Preaching Prize. She is passionate about preaching and forming preachers around the country in an on-line mentoring project. She previously served as Rector of the Church of St. John on the Mountain in Bernardsville in the Diocese of New Jersey and has served on various committees in the Diocese of New Jersey including the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Liturgy. Prior to seminary, Ironside had a career as a Registered Nurse, working with adults in crisis, so pastoral care has an important place in her life and schedule.

Course Details

Required Text

Craft an Effective Sermon by Friday e-Course, found in "CourseResources."

Required Course Software

We use Zoom for live discussions: www.zoom.us.

High speed internet is necessary for live-streaming events. (Chrome is recommended for the most reliable internet streaming.)

If attendance is not possible, recordings will be available.

Instruction will be offered at orientation to learn how to navigate around the group space, how to post and comment, and how to upload sermons.