

Episode 6 How Do We Keep it Fresh?

The big idea

Freshness in whole-life preaching involves an ongoing alertness to people's changing situations and events in the world around us, and a trust in the Bible and the Holy Spirit who continues to speak through it to shape God's people as disciples of Jesus in their everyday lives.

For reflection and discussion

1. How do you make decisions about what to preach?
2. Lindsay says in the video that 'preaching helps us link the pastoral with the missional'. How far are you aware of that connection in your own preaching?
3. Neil talks about the 'whole-life' aspect of preaching as being like the regular chords underneath the changing melody of different texts and topics. In what ways might we ensure that a series of sermons (whether on a biblical book or a theme) retains a whole-life emphasis?
4. In what ways has your understanding and practice of preaching changed or deepened as a result of working through this resource? Which of the actions that you have taken will you continue with going forward? What steps can you take to keep a commitment to whole-life discipling at the heart of preaching in a way that shapes your congregation over the next few years?

Something to do

The video highlighted different ways of responding to the issue of keeping whole-life preaching fresh, such as creating opportunities for people to engage with the text in new ways or through a different medium, and remaining curious about people's lives. Over the next few months, try some of these other ways of staying fresh even while retaining a whole-life ethos:

- Show one of the [Bible Project videos](#) when starting a new series on a biblical book. (thebibleproject.com)
- Ask someone to memorise a passage and deliver it from memory as the reading for that week.
- Listen to how other preachers approach a passage or structure their sermons.
- Read a commentary by someone who is not in your particular church stream or tradition.
- Take a day out to pray through and soak in the biblical material you're planning to preach in the next season.
- Get feedback (through questionnaires or other mechanisms) which can affirm points you may not have been aware of, highlight strengths and things that work well, along with other areas for ongoing development.
- Spend some time engaging carefully but critically with TV programmes, films, songs, and other media read, watched, or listened to by members of the congregation in order to relate biblical passages to the language and presuppositions of the surrounding culture.

Whole Life Preaching

A six-part video series on the power
of preaching for everyday life

Going Forward

Here's a final suggestion: monitor your intention to preach the Bible from a whole-life perspective by regularly inviting different listeners to have a conversation about the things they appreciate and the ways that you could continue this pattern as an ongoing practice. Make your whole-life preaching a congregational task.

Let us know how you do - email: mail@licc.org.uk



Watch the full series free online at:
licc.org.uk/preaching

