

Whole Life Preaching

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

Episode 1 Why Does it Matter?

The big idea

Whole-life preaching equips and enables Christians, through their everyday lives, to take their place in God's purposes in the world.

For reflection and discussion

1. In the video, Antony and Neil suggest that whole-life preaching matters because: (1) it reflects the nature of the church as 'gathered' (to hear God's word preached) and 'scattered' (to live it out on their frontlines), (2) it coheres with the nature of Scripture itself in addressing the whole of life, and (3) it responds to the desires of members in our congregations to hear a word from God which speaks to them in their everyday lives.

Which reason feels most compelling to you? What other reasons might you want to add to reinforce the significance of whole-life preaching?

2. What are you already doing in your context that helps sustain a commitment to whole-life preaching? What do you think you could do better?

3. Where do the members of your congregation spend most of their time during the week? What issues do they face in those places – culturally, relationally, emotionally? How might you prepare sermons in a way that's more attuned to them and their various situations?

Something to do

Recall what Mark said in the video about looking at the 'who, what, when, why, where' of a biblical text. Explore Acts 27 in the light of those questions. How do the questions help you connect the passage to the everyday lives of the people in the church where you preach most often? Try using the same set of questions with the passage you will explore in your next sermon.