

Episode 5 How Do We Involve Others?

The big idea

Whole-life preaching flourishes best as a means of discipling when the whole congregation is involved in the process – before, during, and after the sermon.

For reflection and discussion

1. Think back to the moment in the video when Chris described the conversation between preachers and listeners. How do you respond as a preacher to some of the points made by listeners: 'how is this going to connect with my everyday life?'; 'give me one point not seventeen different points'; 'let me have time to process'?

2. How do you square the role you have been set aside to do as a preacher with any role the wider congregation might play before, during, or after the sermon?

3. In the past, when people have expressed appreciation for the way your sermon has connected with their everyday lives, what did you do to help that happen?

Something to do

Picking up on some of the examples mentioned in the video, if possible, do one of the following as part of the preparation or delivery of your next sermon:

- Meet with a lay person during the week before to talk together about the passage you are preaching from.
- Ask one of your small groups to discuss a passage you are going to preach, and listen to what questions they have, what observations they make, what applications or implications they see, and what examples occur to them.
- Use post-it notes to allow people to ask questions.
- Pause part-way through a sermon for brief reflection and discussion about something in the passage.
- Give time at the end of a sermon for people to share something about what they've heard from Scripture and the possible implications for them.
- Provide some 'So what?' questions for personal reflection or group discussion afterwards.
- Create a post-service slot where people who have questions can ask them.
- If your church has a closed Facebook page, encourage people to post comments, reflections, and questions for discussion.