SIX-WEEK TEAM GUIDE

For teaching teams

AOT

WITH SESSIONS FROM
JOHN MARK COMER
AND JON TYSON

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Run it in an existing staff meeting, one week at a time. Every meeting follows the same 60 minutes.

0–5	5–20	20–40	40–60
Open in prayer. One person names what they're preaching next.	Watch the assignment, or confirm everyone watched ahead (weeks 3 and 5 run long).	Three discussion questions.	The exercise, on a real upcoming sermon.

MINUTES

BEFORE WEEK ONE

- Every person on the team activates their seat and logs in to Foundations.
- Everyone brings their Art of Teaching workbook every week. Each week lists the pages to use.
- Pick a facilitator. It doesn't have to be the lead pastor; it works better when it isn't.
- Decide whether you'll watch together or assign the videos ahead. Sessions run 6 to 44 minutes; watching ahead frees time for the exercise.

The point of the six weeks is a shared language. When someone on your team says "movement," "seam," or "big idea," everyone means the same thing, and feedback on a sermon finally makes sense.

01 WEEK ONE THE 3 C'S

Craft, content and character. John Mark's line for the last one: "you are your ministry." Not your sermons. Who you are.

WATCH John Mark Comer, session 1: The 3 C's of Teaching (19 min)

WORKBOOK Pages 7–8

DISCUSS

1. Craft is the gift, content is what you have to say, character is who you are. Which gets most of our attention as a team? Which gets the least?
2. John Mark says content trumps creativity nine times out of ten. Where do we lean on style to cover thin substance?
3. The great task is to remain a student. What keeps each of us learning, and what has quietly stopped?

EXERCISE Spend ten quiet minutes on the journaling prayer on page 8: ask God to show anything in you that doesn't reflect Jesus. Then, as a team, name one habit that protects the character side of preaching and agree to try it for the remaining five weeks.

WEEK TWO

02 SERMON ARCHITECTURE

A hook, then head to heart to hands. Built from movements, chunks and seams. This is the week your team's vocabulary starts to line up.

WATCH

John Mark Comer, session 2: The Architecture and Design of a Sermon (21 min), and session 3: Movements, Chunks and Seams (6 min). Workbook pages 9–14.

TERMS

Movement: a large section (the hook, the text, the application); most sermons have two to four. **Chunk:** one unit of thought that fits on a 3×5 card. **Seam:** a one-to-three-sentence transition.

EXAMPLE

Jon Tyson's marked-up sermon notes. Look at where the tension is raised, where each seam falls, and what he cut. Put a copy in front of everyone.

DISCUSS

1. John Mark calls the way most of us were trained "term paper preaching." How much of that is still in our sermons?
2. Think of a favorite film's opening. How do our sermons begin, and would anyone lean in?
3. Head, heart, hands: which of the three do we rush or skip? Where in Jon's notes do you see each one?

EXERCISE

Take last Sunday's sermon. Mark its movements. Write each chunk on its own 3×5 card and lay them out on the table; move them until the order serves the point. Then rewrite the weakest seam in three sentences or fewer.

WEEK THREE

03 PREP AND DELIVERY

The week the shared language gets used for real. Each person brings a draft; the team gives feedback in the vocabulary from weeks 1–2.

WATCH

Jon Tyson, session 4: Preparing a Sermon Pt. 1 (24 min) and session 5: Preparing a Sermon Pt. 2 (26 min). Watch before the meeting. Workbook pages 42–45.

DISCUSS

1. Jon starts on a blank page: sit with the text, pray it, write every spark and question before opening a commentary. How does that compare with how you start?
2. What is the most painstaking part of preparing a sermon for you?
3. Jon keeps a "framework for creativity": a checklist of things he wants in every sermon. What would be on yours?

EXERCISE

Each person starts their own framework for creativity on page 45 (essentials and extras). Then a 20-minute feedback round on two drafts. For each draft, the team answers three questions, in order:

1. What's the main point in one sentence?
2. Where does it move from head to heart to hands?
3. Which seam doesn't carry?

Feedback names a movement or a seam, never just "I liked it."

WEEK FOUR

04 THE PREACHING CALENDAR

Jon's phrase: preaching done responsibly is "the long game of formation." This week the team plans the next quarter together, in prayer.

WATCH Jon Tyson, session 3: Planning a Preaching Calendar (24 min)

WORKBOOK Pages 39–41

DISCUSS

1. Jon plans in prayer and in community. How do our series get chosen now, and who is in the room?
2. Over a year, are our people getting both Testaments, ethics and evangelism, discipleship and mission? What's missing?
3. How are we actually staying in touch with the needs of our people, and with the cultural conversations they're living in?

EXERCISE Fill in the gifting table on page 41 together: who on the team is strong at what. Then build a one-page calendar for the next 12 weeks (date, preacher, text, and the one-sentence big idea), rotating preachers by gifting. Leave blanks where you need to, and assign someone to fill each by next week.

WEEK FIVE

05 PREACHING FOR FORMATION

The goal isn't what happens in a sermon. It's what happens through a sermon, in a people, over years. This week names the target everything so far has been aiming at.

WATCH John Mark Comer, session 9: Preaching for Spiritual Formation (44 min; watch before the meeting)

WORKBOOK Pages 28–29

DISCUSS

1. John Mark asks what we're trying to do "not in a sermon" but through one. How would each of us answer that for our church?
2. It's one thing to teach what Jesus commanded and another to teach people how to obey it. Where does our preaching stop at the first?
3. He talks about raising "the horizon of possibility" for people. Where might our preaching be lowering it instead?

EXERCISE Each person writes one sentence: what they want people to walk out carrying from their next sermon. Read them aloud and sharpen them together.

Then, as a team, fill in one row of the cultural commentary table on page 29: a belief common in your city, where it comes from, and how your preaching can show the way of Jesus as better.

WEEK SIX

06 PREACHING WITH PRAYER

Method without prayer misses the point. Jon's conviction: behind every great preacher is a life of prayer.

WATCH Jon Tyson, session 6: Prayer (17 min)

WORKBOOK Pages 46–47

DISCUSS

1. After we've labored over the craft, do we pray over the sermon? Where does prayer actually sit in our week?
2. Is there any fasting or intercession connected to our preaching? What would it look like to start?
3. What did the character habit we chose in week 1 do for us?

EXERCISE Write the team's rule of life for the preaching week, on one page: when prep starts, when it stops, when we pray for Sunday, what Saturday night looks like, and how we'll keep each other to it.

AFTER WEEK SIX

Keep the language alive with three small habits.

MONTHLY

One draft, a 20-minute feedback round, the week-3 questions.

QUARTERLY

Repeat week 4 and plan the next 12 weeks together.

NEW TEAM MEMBERS

Go through the six weeks with one other person, using this guide.

KEEP GOING

Sessions the six weeks didn't cover

JMC 04 Manuscripts

JMC 05 Feedback

JMC 06 Preaching

JMC 07 Recovery

JMC 08 Odds and ends

JMC 10 Theory of change

JON 01 Vision

JON 02 Audience

Take one a month as a team, using the same 60-minute format.

AOT

ART OF TEACHING

Questions about your team license? Email hello@artofteaching.co.

ARTOFTEACHING.CO