As Disciples mature they’re invited to teach and preach. The thought of doing so with little training can be terrifying. How to mentor them? A preaching pattern by Andy Stanley* helps structure their thoughts. He uses the following for his sermons. **Me – We – God – You – We** *(Help the Disciple work through the pattern below, using a theme like fear)*

**Me:** let me tell you something about me. *(A puzzle to figure out, a struggle I’m in, an insight I’ve gotten, a choice I must make, a worry I have, an opportunity I’m considering, a relationship I’m in – family, relatives, work, friend, someone I love; a weakness I have)* Discuss a personal anecdote about fear

*transition* – *I’m not alone with this, we all face similar issues/problems*

**We:** something we all have in common. *(have you faced the same? What did it look like? What did you do, are you still working it through? Know someone who’s dealing with this?*, etc)*

*(transition: what does God have to say about it, in His Word?)* In what ways do we all face fear? How does it affect us, affect our relationships, affect our faith in God? *transition* – *God has much to say about this – let’s discover what he teaches us*

**God:** what God says about it. *(Studying the Bible passage to see what God says, how Jesus lived, how characters in the Bible dealt with it, Bible struggled/succeeded)* the soldiers were afraid although they have power; Pilate’s wife is afraid because Jesus is an innocent man; Pilate is afraid though he’s in control, because he hears Jesus may be divine; the disciples are afraid, before and after the resurrection; only Jesus isn’t afraid, although he’s savagely killed; why? what do we learn, identify with?*

*transition:* it’s not enough to study the Bible, we must put it into practice

**You:** what you personally need to do about it. *(Apply it, do something this week, take these steps, quit, change, start anew, ask forgiveness, make right, set a goal, etc)*

*transition:* we’re in this together, we can help each other

**We:** wouldn’t it be great for all of us it we all did it. *(how we can work together to help each other, what if we all tried, find a spiritual buddy, do this in your small group, set a church goal...)*

**Prayer:** invitation, commitment, etc

This pattern can act as an outline for a Disciple, making it easier to structure the message. Doing a THEME study *(see app)* would provide material for the **God** part. **re fear,** the Disciple can study the Passion/Resurrection, to see how fear worked out in people’s lives. Everyone’s afraid except for Jesus.

Transitions are important, Stanley stresses. If they’re not included, people don’t realize you’re moving to a new aspect of the sermon. You jerk from one part to another, like turning an unexpected corner in a car.

This is a relational outline of communicating. It starts with the personal, moves to connect to the audience, then invites God into the relationship: what does he have to say about this issue? It applies the truth personally: what should you do about it? And, what should all of us as a church do?

* *Andy Stanley is pastor of Northpoint Church in Atlanta, Georgia. The pattern is found in his excellent book, Communicating for a Change.*