



*A Little Handbook for Preachers:
Ten Practical Ways to a Better
Sermon by Sunday*
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Mary S. Hulst (PhD, University of Illinois) is the college chaplain and member of the faculty at Calvin College. She previously served as a professor of preaching at Calvin Theological Seminary and as senior pastor of Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church. She lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan, with her husband Andrew Kromminga.

Follow Mary on Twitter:
[@PastorMary2U](#)

Practical Ways to a Better Sermon

If you're new to preaching, overwhelmed and intimidated, this book is for you.

If you've been preaching for a while, and you're burned out and weary, this book is for you.

If you're looking for fresh ways to think about sermon preparation, this book is for you.

If you'd like some practical ways to enjoy preaching a little more, this book is for you.

If you're longing to have great conversations with your board, elders or congregation about preaching, this book is for you.

If you've gone to seminary or Bible college, this book will revive some of what you learned and hopefully will apply those lessons in helpful ways.

If you've not gone to seminary or Bible college, this book will give you a great place to start and point out other good books and resources that will help you.

If you're not a preacher, this book will be a behind-the-scenes tour of what goes into every sermon and help you to listen better when you're in the pew.

There's a Sunday every week. And for those of us who preach every week, those Sundays come all too soon. Some weeks the sermon falls into place beautifully, our delivery is sparkling, the congregation is attentive, and we remember why we love this work. Other weeks – many weeks – we labor over commentaries, sketch out ideas, play with words, pray and practice and pray some more, and then we preach and it goes okay.

And for those of us who preach occasionally, it can be even harder to find a rhythm. Our sermon preparation time is stuck between our "day job" and the rest of life. Dwelling on a text, trying out ideas and practicing the sermon a time or two are luxuries. We long to preach well on a limited time budget.

Many of us know the creative mess that is preaching. We feel the frustration when things don't go the way we want and the delight when they do. There is much about preaching that is mysterious. And there is much about it that is incredibly practical. This book focuses on the latter. . . .

Whether you preach sermons or listen to them, whether you teach people how to preach or have never been in a preaching class, my prayer is that this book will help you love preaching, love the Word, love the listeners and most of all love God even more.

– Adapted from the Introduction