

## USING THE **SOULSHIFT** SERMON OUTLINES

### NOTES FOR THE PREACHER FROM STEVE DENEFF

There are eight sermon outlines on the *SoulShift Resources DVD-Rom*, one for each week in the SoulShift series. Each outline is organized around four components that move the sermon from the text to the point to the application of the point. Each is inductive, which means that the preacher will hold back certain key insights until later in the sermon. This is integrated into the outlines. The four components of each sermon are:

#### **INTRODUCTION**

There is something to help gain the interest of the audience and to focus it on one of the SoulShifts. I have kept the use of illustrations to a minimum since the best illustrations are the ones we find ourselves. I encourage you to explore ways to illustrate that are true to your style and experience. These will become your sermons, not mine, even though the underlying message is the same. My illustrations are not always helpful, as they might trap you into a certain kind of sermon or delivery that does not fit your congregation.

#### **TEXTUAL WORK**

I have been very careful to make sure that the exegesis of the texts supports the central idea of each SoulShift. For each week, there is a brief explanation of how the text supports the corresponding shift. It is important for you to spend a fair amount of time during the week developing your own nuances and implications for these texts. My goal is simply to get you started. Read the Textual Work section in each outline, and open your Bible to the chapter and verse as you follow along. From there, ask your own questions and make your own observations

about the text. If you use nothing else from these sermons except the Textual Work, you will be able to anchor your thoughts firmly upon the Word of God.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

Following the exegesis is a section called Implications in which we unpack some general principles that have emerged in our study. The idea is to get your people thinking about what these things mean to all people, everywhere, all of the time. Frequently, the implications compare the Word of God to our culture. At this point in the sermon, people should begin to feel that you are onto something, that there are vast differences between the Word of God and popular culture, and that you are prepared to offer them wise counsel. This is the part of the sermon where you begin to tell people how they should live.

### **APPLICATIONS**

Each sermon ends with a brief series of practical steps that will help the congregation move the principles of the sermon into their daily lives. I have assumed that many in the congregation will have a small group, class, soul coach, or mentor with whom they can discuss things raised in your sermon. If they do not, it would be a good idea to create such groups (see the Small Groups portion of this DVD and the *Strategic Planning Guide* chapter on groups).

### **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

The sermons on this DVD-Rom are the same ones I preached at College Wesleyan Church in abbreviated form. You may use these notes however you choose. Each outline is complete enough for you to add only your personal observations and illustrations. Or you may choose to use only the Textual Work as a sermon starter and develop the whole sermon on your own. You may end up preaching only one part of the sermon and let the video (viewed in small groups) cover the rest. Or you could even preach the implications and applications from a

completely different text. The value of staying with the recommended texts is that it anchors all of the sermons within a single meta-narrative (overarching story): following Jesus along the way. It is difficult, though not impossible, to find all seven SoulShifts within a single passage of Scripture. The Mark 8–10 narrative is one place. There are others, but this is what College Wesleyan Church used. I hope it helps as you prepare.

I have left places in the outlines where you can expound on your own. In many cases, I included instruction or encouragement that I think will help emphasize a certain point.

I have also kept the conclusion of each sermon generic so that you can tailor it according to your plans for that day. The introduction and conclusion are two places where I was careful to leave room for flexibility.

My prayers are with you, fellow preacher, as you dive into the Word of God on the subject of these shifts and speak things into the lives of your people that I never would have thought to say. Your task is a large one, but I hope these outlines help you start with more than a clean sheet of paper.

—Steve DeNeff

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