

FROGS WITHOUT LEGS FOR LENT

• L E C T I O N A R Y Y E A R C •

preaching
& teaching

SERIES

Nurturing Disciples in Home and Congregation

A Model for Christian Worship and Study for Congregation,
Small Groups, and Home during Lent

By Rev. Dr. David W. Anderson

Co-Director of Milestones Ministry



www.milestonesministry.org

The Milestones Ministry Mission

Milestones Ministry mission is to provide congregations and households with resources and coaching services to nurture the Christian faith and reach out to others with the love of God in Christ.



Frogs without Legs for Lent

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Lectionary Year C

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Milestones Ministry Framework



Five Principles

for living and passing on faith

1. Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships—often in our own homes.
2. The church is a living partnership between the ministry of the congregation and ministry of the home.
3. Where Christ is present in faith, the home is church, too.
4. Faith is caught more than it is taught.
5. If we want Christian children and youth, we need Christian adults.

Four Keys

for practicing faith

1. Caring Conversations
2. Devotions
3. Service
4. Rituals and Traditions

Three Characteristics

for Christians

1. Authentic
2. Available
3. Affirming

FROGS WITHOUT LEGS CAN'T HEAR



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OPTIONS FOR USING

Frogs without Legs for Lent

First and foremost, it is expected that the sermons will preach the good news of Jesus Christ and not the “good news” of Three Characteristics for Christians (AAA Road Servants), Four Key Faith Practices, and Five Principles (what is sometimes referred to as the “5-4-3”). The 5-4-3 model of evangelism and discipleship in the church is not to be confused with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The 5-4-3 presents biblical and historical ways to present and live the gospel without being the gospel.

For those who will want to use the lectionary for the Sundays of Lent, preach the gospel as you are able by the grace of God, and use the 5-4-3 information contained in this series as ways to help people live out the gospel in home, congregation, and larger world. As one of the authors of the book *Frogs without Legs Can't Hear* and the author of this preaching and teaching series, I regularly use the assigned pericope texts and find ample ways to explore most all of the Four Key Faith Practices and a number of the Five Principles in each sermon. Pastors and other preachers are being asked in this series simply to explore one of the AAA concepts, Four Key Faith Practices, or Five Principles each week. The 5-4-3 helps Christians explore what the gospel looks like enlashed in daily life experiences and relationships.

Thematic preaching using the 5-4-3 model need not restrict ones use of other texts or be misused as a substitute for the gospel of Jesus Christ. Preach Christ and let the 5-4-3 help the hearers of the word to see how the gospel of Jesus Christ is lived in community and for the world that God so loves. Enjoy the humbling and glorious task of preaching and teaching with the assistance of the imagery found in Three Characteristics for Christians (AAA Road Servants), Four Key Faith Practices, and Five Principles.

Option One

On Sundays: Begin with the Sunday before the season of Lent (the Transfiguration of Our Lord) to introduce the worshippers to the congregation's intended focus for the season of Lent. On the Mount of Transfiguration, Peter, James, and John received a clear vision of Jesus as the Son of God as he turned toward Jerusalem and his journey to the cross and empty tomb. The Lenten series will also present a vision for the church that follows the Risen Lord into the world with grace, mercy, and peace. Each of the Five Principles from the book will be presented during the first five Sundays of Lent. Passion/Palm Sunday texts and themes then begins Holy Week.

On Wednesdays: Following Ash Wednesday and its focus on discipleship through repentance and forgiveness, the next five Wednesdays will develop the Four Key Faith Practices. The first Wednesday will introduce the life of faith through the four identified faith practices. The following four Wednesdays will introduce the Four Key Faith Practices, one at a time.

Sundays of Easter: The Sundays following Easter Day can focus on the Three Characteristics for Christians (AAA Road Servants) (chapter 13 of the book), followers of the Risen Lord Jesus who are authentic, available, and affirming. Now that the congregation has studied the Five Principles of being the church and the Four Key Faith Practices that nurture and share the Christian life with others, the members and friends are ready to focus on their lives as AAA Road Servants, disciples of Christ who are called to be authentic, available, and affirming. It is not the life extolled by the world, but it is the life of Christian discipleship that, in the name of the Risen Lord, brings healing, hope, and salvation to the world.

**Three Characteristics for Christians
(AAA Servants)**

Authentic

Available

Affirming

Option Two

The format is similar to Option One except that the *Frogs without Legs for Lent* series continues from Sunday to Sunday during Lent and Easter. The Wednesday schedule is not included in the series and the readings are stretched out over more weeks.

Option Three

Use the Four Key Faith Practices for the Wednesday Lenten services. Then use the Five Principles for a preaching and study series anytime during the year. Instead of reading the entire book through the season of Lent, the readings are stretched out over more weeks in the life of the congregation. Individuals, small groups (including the high school and adult study group), households, and congregational ministry teams study the book over a longer period of time.

Option Four

Take the Sunday series and use it whenever seems best for the life of the congregation. Easter season would be a good time to explore what it means to be the community of faith that follows the Risen Lord. The Wednesday series can also stand alone and be used during the Sundays in Lent or as any preaching series during the year.



PROMOTIONAL ARTICLES

and table tent

ARTICLE 1 FOR NEWSLETTER OR BULLETIN INSERT

FROGS WITHOUT LEGS FOR LENT: A Preaching and Teaching Series

Nurturing Disciples in Home and Congregation

A Model for Christian Worship and Study

presented by

Milestones Ministry

www.milestonesministry.org

Frogs without Legs for Lent offers a thematic presentation for both worship and study that will help members and friends of the congregation, homes, small groups and Bible study participants into a deeper experience of the life of the church that partners home and congregation in ministry. This preaching and teaching series offers the congregation

- Weekly themes for worship services.
- Recommended Bible texts for worship services and for Bible study.
- Family and small group caring conversations and service.
- Devotional prayers for the week.
- Short readings from *Frogs without Legs Can't Hear: Nurturing Disciples in Home and Congregation* to offer your congregation a common vision and language for ministry.
- Weekly bulletin inserts, Lenten table tents (folded cardstock paper that stands up and contain prayers and lists of the central themes to be studied) and resources that help reinforce the learning and encourage people in their lives of Christian discipleship.

Experience Lenten worship and study through the practice of four foundational faith disciplines. This series provides family and small group activities that help disciples use the Four Key Faith Practices of:

- Caring Conversations
- Devotions
- Service
- Rituals and Traditions

The gospel of Jesus Christ is meant to be heard, received and lived in a way that shapes lives and welcomes others into God's reign of grace, mercy, and peace. Let it happen through this preaching and teaching series as your congregation invites members, friends, and neighbors into a journey that will inspire, encourage, and celebrate God's presence in our lives and world with the message of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.





FIVE SKITS TO INTRODUCE

the four key faith practices

Skit 1: Living the Life of Faith

(Worship Guide: Part Two—Week 1 - Ash Wednesday)

Skit 2: Caring Conversations

(Worship Guide Part Two—Week 2 - Second Wednesday in Lent)

Skit 3: Devotions

(Worship Guide Part Two—Week 3 - Third Wednesday in Lent)

Skit 4: Service

(Worship Guide Part Two—Week 4 - Fourth Wednesday in Lent)

Skit 5: Rituals and Traditions

(Worship Guide Part Two—Week 5 - Fifth Wednesday in Lent)

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