

2026-2027
TOWNSEND **PRESS**

POWERFUL PREACHING POINTERS

For Pastors and Ministers



**A Townsend Press Sunday School
Commentary Supplement**



**A Sermon Outline for Every Sunday of the Year
Plus 8 for Special Days**

Based on the International Lessons Series

Townsend Press

Powerful Preaching Pointers

for Pastors and Ministers

2026–2027

Based on the International Lessons Series
King James Version / New International Version

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Commentary Writers: Dr. Febbie Dickerson; Rev. Joe Tribble; Dr. G. V. Guns; Dr. Cleo LaRue; Dr. Justin Reed. *Editors:* Rev. Chantaye Knotts; Rev. Wellington A. Johnson Sr., Dr. Sophia Woodard; *Content Editors:* Tanae McKnight Murdic; Regina Hoosier; *Copy Editor:* Antonia López; *Layout Designer:* Royetta Davis; *Cover Designer:* Joyce Evans

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CHRISTIAN CALENDAR 2026–2027

EVENT

Thanksgiving Day
*Advent Season

DATE

November 26, 2026
Sunday, November 29–
Wednesday, December 24, 2026

*(*A period to reflect and prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth)*

Christmas Eve
Christmas Day
Watch Night/New Year's Eve
New Year's Day
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
*Lenten Season

Thursday, December 24, 2026
Friday, December 25, 2026
Thursday, December 31, 2026
Friday, January 1, 2027
Monday, January 18, 2027
January 18-25, 2027
Wednesday, February 10, 2027–
Saturday, March 25, 2027

*(*A period to reflect on Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection)*

Palm Sunday
Good Friday
Easter (Resurrection) Sunday
National Day of Prayer
Mother's Day
Father's Day

Sunday, March 21, 2027
March 26, 2027
Sunday, March 28, 2027
Thursday, May 6, 2027
Sunday, May 9, 2027
Sunday, June 20, 2027

PREFACE

The *Townsend Press Powerful Preaching Pointers for Pastors and Ministers* is a production of the Sunday School Publishing Board, Nashville, Tennessee. It is presented to you with the hope that it will enhance your Sunday school, Christian education ministry, and congregation's biblical understanding.

The Powerful Preaching Pointers are designed to provide the pastor with literary aids to correlate the "preaching moment" with the "teaching moment." Persons attending Sunday school would come to appreciate better the insights provided and the additional illumination coming from the Word of God. The fifty-two Powerful Preaching Pointers were developed by pastors who have an ongoing preaching ministry and can visualize how the dynamism of preaching is inextricably connected to the vitality of teaching.

The format of the *Townsend Press Powerful Preaching Pointers for Pastors and Ministers* consists of a Calendar of Events that is inclusive of the days of significance in the Christian community. Also included are eight (8) Sermonic Starters for Special Days—beginning with the Thanksgiving season in November and ending with Father's Day in June.

While the autonomy of the individual soul before God is affirmed, we believe that biblical truths find their highest expression within the community of believers whose corporate experiences serve as monitors to preserve the integrity of the Christian faith. As such, the Word of God must be understood and embodied in the concrete realities of daily life. This allows the Word of God to intersect meaningfully with those realities of life. This, in essence, is the continuing intent of the *Townsend Press Powerful Preaching Pointers for Pastors and Ministers*.

As a publishing ministry, we stand firm in our commitment to Christian growth—to the end that lives will be transformed through personal and group interaction with the Word of God. The challenge issued by the apostle Paul continues to be relevant to our faith journey and our relationships in the faith community: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15, NKJV).

BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE OF CONTRIBUTORS

Powerful Preaching Pointers

Dr. E. Leroy Brown

Dr. E. Leroy Brown has served as pastor of Second Missionary Baptist Church of Douglasville, Georgia, since 2017. His previous pastorates include the New Beginnings Missionary Baptist Church, where he served from 2008 to 2017; and the Israel Missionary Baptist Church, where he served from 1987 to 2005. His undergraduate work was completed at the Union Baptist College and Theological Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he earned a Bachelor of Theology degree in 1987. He furthered his theological training at Union Baptist College and Theological Seminary and earned the Master of Theology degree in 1990. He earned the Doctor of Theology degree from the Christian Bible College of Louisiana in 1999. Dr. Brown has been in the ministry for more than forty years. He has served as an instructor at the following schools: the Christian Bible College of Louisiana, the Union Baptist College, and the Theological Seminary. At present, he is a member of the Friendship Missionary Baptist Association. He also serves as an instructor and Dean of the Congress of Christian Education of the Friendship Missionary Baptist Association. He is married to Cecelia Bell Brown and is the father of four, grandfather of six, and great-grandfather of twelve.

Dr. S. Evan Burrows

Rev. Evan Burrows has been preaching the Gospel for more than forty years. He began his ministry as an evangelist and has ministered in a variety of settings, including prisons, schools, churches, open-air campaigns, camps, retreats, and conferences. Over the years, Rev. Burrows has served in various areas of ministry, including evangelist, youth pastor, assistant pastor, and senior pastor.

Following his call to the gospel ministry, Rev. Burrows pursued theological training, earning a bachelor's degree from Florida Bible College, a master's degree from Luther Rice Seminary, and a doctorate from Tabernacle Bible College and Seminary. Rev. Burrows was born on the Island of New Providence in the Bahamas and moved to Tampa in 1995; shortly thereafter, he joined the First Baptist Church of College Hill. In 1996, Rev. Burrows was hired as the first full-time youth pastor of First Baptist Church under the pastorate of Rev. Abraham Brown. In November 2005, he was elected assistant pastor; and in 2008, upon Rev. Brown's retirement, he was elected pastor.

Dr. Burrows is a gifted Bible teacher and is passionate about communicating the truths of the Scriptures. Dr. Burrows is passionate about the local church and committed to developing competent, committed leadership to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. Rev. Burrows is married to his lovely wife, Rosa, and they have two boys, Henry and Andrew.

Dr. Tellis Chapman

Dr. Tellis Jerome Chapman is the pastor of Galilee Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan. He was born in Newton, Mississippi. He is a graduate of Jackson State University (Jackson, Mississippi) and has received honorary doctoral degrees from Natchez College (Natchez, Mississippi) and Dallas Baptist College (Dallas, Texas). He is also a board member of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. Reverend Chapman is married to the former Eunice Newsome; they have four children: Cecil, Brandie, Candace, and Brannon.

Dr. Elliott Cuff

Dr. Elliott Cuff is a graduate of Harvard University (Cambridge, Massachusetts), the New York Theological Seminary, where he earned a Master of Divinity, and the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, where he earned a Doctor of Ministry in Social Justice Preaching. Dr. Cuff is also a lifetime member of the NAACP and holds joint membership in the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature. He has written many articles and essays for Christian publications, including his sermon work in the *African American Pulpit*, published by Judson Press, and his essay on African American preaching, published in the Jubilee Bible by the American Bible Society. He is a strong advocate for economic self-sufficiency, community-based education, and educational reform to restore moral, economic, and social integrity and wholeness in depressed communities. Dr. Cuff is the former Dean of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, National Baptist Convention, USA, Incorporated. He is married to Virginia E. Cuff. They are the proud parents of one daughter: Lorell E. Cuff.

Dr. Robert J. Fields

Dr. Robert J. Fields, the fifth child of the late Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Tate Fields Sr. of Canton, Georgia, was born, raised, and educated in the Atlanta Public School System. He and his wife, the former Sonya D. Franklin, have been married for twenty-eight years and reside in Ellenwood, Georgia.

After graduating from Frederick Douglass High School, Dr. Fields earned an AS degree in Business Administration from Atlanta Metropolitan College. Answering the call to ministry, he continued his studies at Atlanta Baptist College, receiving a Bachelor's degree in Pastoral Studies in 2004. That same year, he was licensed to preach under Pastor Curtis Dixon, MDiv. He later completed both his Master of Divinity and Doctorate degrees in Pastoral Theology at Andersonville Theological Seminary, graduating magna cum laude. On August 14, 2016, he was ordained under the leadership of Dr. Patrick K. Latimore of Greater Fair Hill Baptist Church.

On August 27, 2022, Dr. Fields and his wife, Deaconess Sonya D. Fields, were called to serve as pastor and first lady elect of New Bethel Baptist Church, “the little church with a big heart.” He preached his first sermon as pastor-elect on September 18, 2022, titled “He’s about to Flip It!” and was officially installed as pastor on February 19, 2023.

Rev. Vincent Johnson

Rev. Vincent Cortez Johnson is a native of the beautiful Island of Nassau in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. He received his BA in Theology and Social Science from the American Baptist Theological Seminary. “Pastor J.,” as he is affectionately called, is known for his fiery delivery of God’s Word and his down-to-earth personality. He seeks to build a ministry that is characterized by helping those who are hurting and without guidance, and to empower the body of believers. Pastor Johnson and First Lady Johnson are the proud parents of three lovely daughters: Etana Aulissa, Eyden Amiana, and Emiah Destiny. Pastor Johnson is also a proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Dr. Paul Lee

Dr. Paul Lee has served as pastor of Jones Memorial Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, since 1987. His undergraduate work was completed at the University of Southern Mississippi, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education/Corrective Therapy. His theological training was received at the Lift Bible College of Ocean Springs, Mississippi. He received an honorary doctorate in

theology from Philadelphia Bible College and Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Lee has been in the ministry for more than forty years. He has taught the New Testament at the York Bible Institute of York, Pennsylvania, and the Old Testament at the Philadelphia Bible College and Seminary of Baltimore, Maryland. He is an instructor of “How to Develop a Giving Church” in the Ministers’ Division of the National Congress of Christian Education. Pastor Lee is the husband of Dale Sharpe-Lee, and they are the proud parents of six children and have ten grandchildren.

Dr. Johnny E. McBurrows

Dr. Johnny E. McBurrows graduated from William Bryant High School in 1961 and furthered his education at the Atlanta Law School (1968–1970), the Newburgh Theological Seminary, and Ashford University. He earned his AA degree in Biblical Studies from the Carver Bible College and Institute in 1992, and his Doctor of Divinity degree on May 6, 2017. He accepted his calling into the ministry in 1975, was licensed in June of 1976, and was ordained as a minister of the Gospel on April 17, 1977, under the leadership of the Reverend Doctor Clayton E. Taylor Sr., pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in East Point, Georgia. In April of 1980, he was “called to preach” and was subsequently installed as pastor of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church of Dallas, Georgia, on May 11, 1980. He has pastored Shiloh B.C. for more than forty years. He serves as the Dean of the Carroll-Douglas Bible Extension School in Villa Rica, Georgia. He is the Founder/Comptroller of the South Georgia Academy for Protestant Ministers in Moultrie, Georgia, a school that educates and trains protestant ministers in the surrounding communities. Reverend Dr. McBurrows has been married to the former Augustine Pullen for forty-plus years. They are parents of one God-given and talented daughter, Erica Joy, and grandparents of one.

Dr. Sherman Tribble

Dr. Sherman R. Tribble is Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Hosanna Bible College in Durham, North Carolina. Of his more than fifty years in ministry, he served as a pastor for more than thirty years in New York, Tennessee, and North Carolina. He has served as Director of Publishing for the Sunday School Publishing Board. He also served at several schools, including Apex School of Theology, American Baptist College, Fisk University, Shaw University, United Theological Seminary, and Vanderbilt University. He holds a BA from Fisk University (*magna cum laude*), an MDiv from Howard University, and a PhD from Northwestern University. He is the author of the landmark study *Images of a Preacher: A Study of the Reverend Joseph Harrison Jackson*, and served as the general editor for the hymnal *Total Praise: Songs and Other Worship Resources for Every Generation*.

List of Curriculum Resources

The Sunday School Publishing Board produces the following Curriculum Resources:

Sunday School Literature ADULT MATERIALS

- Bible Studies for Adults [also available in Large Print Edition]
- Bible Studies for Young Adults (Ages 18-34)
- Adult Teacher's Guide—A Leadership Resource for Adult Bible Study (For Teachers of Adults and Young Adults)
- Baptist Layman

YOUTH MATERIALS

- Bible Studies for High School Students
- Bible Studies for Middle School Students
- Youth Teacher's Guide—For Middle School and High School Students

CHILDREN'S MATERIALS

- Bible Studies, Upper Elementary (Grades 4–6)
- Activity Book, Upper Elementary (Grades 4–6)
- Bible Studies, Middle Elementary (Grades 2–3)
- Activity Book, Middle Elementary (Grades 2–3)
- Bible Studies, Early Elementary (Grades K–1)
- Bible Studies, Preschool (Ages 3-4)
- Picture Lesson Cards (Toddlers to Twos)
- Teacher's Guide for Older Children (Grades 2–6)
- Teacher's Guide for Younger Children (Toddlers to Grade 1)

DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES

S.E.E.D. (**S**piritual **E**lements **E**ssential for **D**iscipleship)—Series of Ten. Each series consists of the following publications:

- Life Sustainers (Ages 55 and Above)
- Life Planters (Ages 36-54)
- Deeper Roots (Ages 18-35)
- Growing in Grace (Ages 12-17)
- Growing in Christ (Ages 11 and Under)
- Two Teacher's Guides:
 - (a) Teacher's Guide for Deeper Roots, Life Planters, and Life Sustainers
 - (b) Teacher's Guide for Growing in Christ and Growing in Grace

Living the Baptist Faith Bible Studies Series

Small-group Member Books:

- Living the Baptist Faith for Adults (Ages 35 and Above)
- Living the Baptist Faith for Young Adults (Ages 18-34)
- Living the Baptist Faith for High School Students (Grades 10–12)
- Living the Baptist Faith for Middle School Students (Grades 7–9)
- Living the Baptist Faith for Older Children (Grades 4–6)
- Living the Baptist Faith for Younger Children (Grades 1–3)

Small-group Leader's Guides:

- Leader's Guide for Young Adults and Adults
- Leader's Guide for Middle School and High School Students
- Leader's Guide for Younger and Older Children

ANNUAL RESOURCES

- Vacation Bible School (VBS)
- *Townsend Press Sunday School Commentary*
- *The Flashlight Concise Commentary*
- *Townsend Press Powerful Preaching Pointers for Pastors and Ministers*
- *Townsend Press Targeted Teaching Tips for Sunday School Teachers*

Don't Forget God's Promises

Sunday School Lesson Topic:

Renewing Our Commitments

Sunday School Lesson Scripture Text:

Joshua 1:1-11

Key Scriptural Passage:

Joshua 1:5-9

Sermon Outline

Introduction

No matter where we were born or what our struggles have been, we can rely on God's promises. There are no days so dark that God's promises cannot bring light and hope, reminding us that God is in control. Tragedies and sorrow can sometimes impose moments of uncertainty in our lives, but God knows how to move us to a place of assurance. In this passage, the Israelites had just finished

mourning for thirty days at the death of Moses after forty years of wandering in the wilderness.

As we attempt to impress upon our minds hope, salvation, and God's promises, we discover the significance of Joshua's name, meaning "Jehovah the Savior." God reaffirms in this text Joshua's need to trust the history of God's past performance and to hold fast to His promises. Let's visit four things Joshua was urged to recognize: God cannot and will not fail; don't get sidetracked; saturate your life with God's Word; and be secure in His presence.

Points

1. God Cannot and Will Not Fail (verses 5-6)

Israel's past reveals that those who were skilled fighters did not have faith to go in on God's promise and declaration that the land was already theirs. The failure to go into the Promised Land was on them. This is the second time at the Jordan looking at the promise. What is so significant is that in all their wandering, God never stopped providing for them and meeting their needs. He supplied water from the rock, manna from heaven, quail for meat, pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night! Even where there was sorrow at Moses's death, God urged Joshua to let go of the past because "I promise you what I promised Moses" (verse 3, NLT). The Lord said, "For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you" (verses 5b-c, NLT).

2. Don't Get Sidetracked (verse 7)

It is easy to get distracted or sidetracked if we see our challenges through human eyes, when our enemy has a size advantage or greater numbers. However, God spoke to Joshua with strong words of assurance—"No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live" (verse 5, NLT); "Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them" (verse 7b, NLT). We must remember that the basis of our embracing God's promises is our undaunted faith. God never promises us that we will have a problem-free journey, or that our

opponents won't be greater in number or bigger in size. We must remain focused and hold onto what God has promised. Many distractions and detours in life can inevitably sidetrack us. We need to be daily reminded to keep our eyes on the One who can "keep us from falling."

3. Saturate Your Life with God's Word (verse 8)

One of the great flaws and weaknesses of our local churches is that believers choose to make prayer and the study of God's word optional. God did not give Joshua a choice. He said, "Study this Book of Instruction continually" (verse 8a, NLT). It is certain that the more we take in God's Word, the more it assures provision and success. Joshua was urged to be preoccupied with God's Word. God had foreordained that Moses rehearsed it in Joshua's hearing, shaping his conduct.

How can we saturate our lives with God's Word? We can do so by daily reading His Word, meditating on it, and allowing it to sink into our consciousness and subconsciousness. There are times when we may read a passage of Scripture, and a clear message may come through. Then, when we read it a second time, we discover that a second clear message comes through. That is a clear sign that we need to become thoroughly saturated with the Word.

4. Be Secure with His Presence (verse 9)

Our God is not inconsistent. He tells Joshua three times, "Be strong and courageous" (Joshua 1:6, 7, 9). Twice, He promises His presence (1:5, 9). As He promised Moses and Joshua, we also have the assurance of His promised presence. It does not matter how strong the opposition is or how great its numbers are. God wants to occupy sanctified space in our character that produces godly determination. God stabilizes and fortifies the areas in our lives where we are prone to fail.

What does it really mean to be secure with God's presence? Being secure with His presence means living from the deep assurance that God is not simply near you but with you in a way that calms your mind, moors your emotions, and strengthens your steps.

Conclusion

We know that without faith it is impossible to please God. We must trust Him and obey. "Never Alone," that familiar hymn of the church, affirms God's presence.



Look Where He Brought Us From

Sunday School Lesson Topic:
Family Legacies

Sunday School Lesson Scripture Text:
Joshua 4:14-24

Key Scriptural Passage:
Joshua 4:21-24

Sermon Outline

Introduction

One of the tragedies that plagues believers today is our failure to remember where the Lord has brought us from! In this text, it was evident that the Lord made and kept His promises to Israel. Crossing the river of Jordan was an extremely stirring experience. It brought back memories of the Red Sea crossing. At the Jordan, God was leading them across while it was overflowing. The conditions for crossing were not favorable, yet Joshua instructed the priest bearing

the ark of the covenant to forge ahead. The number of people crossing was over two million. Most of the previous generation that crossed the Red Sea died in the wilderness. They have just come out of those wasted, dreadful, wilderness years of unbelief, disobedience, and rebellion against God. Now they've crossed Jordan, and God now gives Joshua the assignment of establishing memorials and worship. They were not to forget the faithfulness of God, faith in God, and a future testimony of faith.

Points

1. Faithfulness of God (verses 21-22)

God instructed Joshua to teach this generation to articulate their God-given testimony. In verse 16, the Ark is called by another name: the "ark of the testimony" (Exodus 25:16, 22; 26:33-34). God's faithfulness is an eternal fact for all of God's people. After the weary wandering years in the desert, this was a welcome conclusion in the Promised Land. This movement had reflections of the movements out of Egyptian bondage with Pharaoh in pursuit. God provided divine leadership in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Here in the Jordan crossing, it was the priest bearing the ark of the covenant. The Ark represented all the covenant promises that God made. God is faithful to every promise He has given us in this life. He was faithful through the Red Sea crossing, faithful through the desert wanderings, and faithful through Jordan's crossing. He has never and will never forsake His own. God will faithfully fulfill His promises!

2. Faith in God (verse 23)

Joshua completely trusted God and believed every word He promised. God gave Joshua and the Israelites the words for their testimony. Our testimony is with God and already prepared. As mentioned in verse 23 (NLT), "The LORD your God *dried up the river right before your eyes, and kept it dry until you were all were across.*" We can trust God to handle our floods of troubles,

TOWNSEND PRESS

POWERFUL PREACHING POINTERS

Based on the International Lessons Series

A Sermon Starter Resource for Pastors and Ministers

September 2026–August 2027

This Unique Resource for Sermon Preparation includes the following:

- Preaching Pointers for Fifty-two (52) Sundays
- Preaching Pointers for Eight (8) Special Days, which include . . .
 - Thanksgiving Day
 - Christmas Day
 - New Year's Day
 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 - Good Friday
 - Resurrection (Easter) Sunday
 - Mother's Day
 - Father's Day
- The Preaching Pointers are connected to the Sunday School Scriptures for each Sunday of the year.
- Each Preaching Pointer has a Contemporary Topic.
- Sermon Starters provide a biblical foundation for sermon development.
- The Christian Calendar of Special Days

Brief Introduction

The *Townsend Press Powerful Preaching Pointers for Pastors and Ministers* is a unique addition to your sermon preparation resources, which is invaluable in helping you to show congregants the value of Sunday school participation. It also reinforces the truths taught in the Sunday school classes. Your sermonic preparation will be enhanced through this resource.

These sermonic preaching pointers have been prepared by a number of prominent Baptist pastors and ministers who subscribe to the precepts, doctrines, and positions on biblical hermeneutics and appropriate homiletical standards that our constituents have come to expect.

