

Prayer Worksheet For Planning My Preaching for the Next Year

Number of Sundays in each Month:

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December

Holy Days, Holidays, Vacation Days, Important Days on the Church Calendar

My Vacation Days _____ **Daylight Savings Time:** _____ **School Starts:** _____
 _____ **Mother's Day:** Sunday, May ____ **Fall Time Change:** Sunday, Nov. __
January Bible Study _____ **Memorial Day:** Monday, May ____ **Thanksgiving:** Thursday, Nov. ____
Book: _____ **School's Out:** _____ **Christmas:** _____, Dec. 25
Valentine's Day: _____, Feb. 14 **Father's Day:** Sunday, June ____ **New Year's Day:** _____, Jan. 1
Spring Revival: _____ **Vacation Bible School:** _____ **Other:** _____
Spring Break: _____ **Independence Day:** _____, July 4 **Other:** _____
Easter: Sunday, _____ **Labor Day:** Monday, September ____ **Other:** _____

Growth Points for Us as a Church:

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Common Problems We Are Hearing from Our Members:

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Books I Preached Through Last Year:

Books to Preach Through Next Year:

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Having Prayerfully Studied the Back Side of this Worksheet and...

**Considering What I Preached On Over the Last Year, Here are Some
Ways to Provide a Balanced Diet to My Congregation:**

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Six Snapshots of My Preaching in the Past Year

In one color, highlight the things you preached on in the past year or so.

In another color, highlight the things you feel God is leading you to preach on this next year.

Preaching
Pyramid

Doctrines for Believing *Principles for Living* **Stories for Illustrating** (character studies, Bible history)
Seed for Regenerating **Mirror for Revealing** *Sword for Penetrating* **Lamp for Guiding** *Food for the Soul* **Milk for Babies** *Honey for Delighting* **Meat for the Mature** *Correcting & Restoring* **Training & Equipping** *Encourage & Console* **Hope Edification** **Worship:** Encountering & Connecting with God

Nav Wheel
Disciple's
Cross

Christ (the Hub — Lordship of Christ, Spirit-filled life, Delighting in God, Worship & Praise)
Bible Study (downward spoke) **Prayer** (upward spoke)
Fellowship (side spoke) **Witnessing** (side spoke) **Obedience** (where the wheel meets the road)

10 Periods in
Bible History

1. Beginnings (Genesis, Job) **2. Deliverance and Spiritual Formation** (Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) **3. Into the Promised Land** (Joshua), **4. Drift into Pluralism** (Judges, Ruth) **5. Kings — 5A: Kings Established:** First king—Saul, greatest king—David, wisest King—Solomon (I & II Samuel, I & Kings 1-11, I & II Chronicles, most Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs); **5B Kings: Division and Decay** (I Kings 12ff, II Kings, I Chronicles, II Chronicles, Prophets: Jonah, Hosea, Amos, Isaiah, Micah, Nahum, Obadiah, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Joel) **6. Judgment and Exile** (Ezekiel, Esther, Daniel) **7. Return and Rebuilding** (Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi) **8. Messiah's Arrival, Ministry, and Redemptive Work** (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts 1) **9. The Church** (Acts, All epistles Romans through Jude, Revelation 1-3) **10. Christ's Return and Eternal Reign** (many places, including Matthew 24-25, I Thessalonians 4-5, II Thessalonians 2, Revelation)

Doctrines

The Word of God (inspiration, authority, the canon, clarity, sufficiency); **God** (His existence, triune nature, attributes & character, names, knowability); **God the Father; God the Son—the Person of Christ** (full deity of Christ, full humanity of Christ, preexistence, incarnation, unity of two natures, sinlessness, atonement, resurrection, did He descend to hell?, ascension, offices of prophet, priest & king, His exalted state); **God the Holy Spirit** (who He is, His indwelling, His filling, His empowering, His gifts); **Angels; Satan and Demons; Man** (created in God's image, male & female, spirit, soul, & body or soul/spirit & body?, the institution of the family, how we inherit sin); **The Fall and Sin** (original sin—sin imputed to us from Adam & a sinful nature inherited from Adam, the nature of sin, personal sin, the seriousness of sin); **Providence; Prayer; Miracles; Salvation** (meaning of election & predestination, calling, regeneration, conversion, repentance, faith, justification, adoption, baptism of the Spirit, union with Christ, sanctification, perseverance of the saints, glorification); **The Church** (its Master, mission, government, offices, the Lord's Day, church discipline, worship, spiritual gifts); **Ordinances** of the church (baptism and the Lord's supper); **Evangelism & Missions** (the mandate for world evangelization, the meaning of missions, stewardship, cooperation); **The Christian in the World** (Christian citizenship, religious liberty, war & peace); **The Second Coming of Christ and the eternal state** (when & how, at any time?, rapture, tribulation period?, millennium?, resurrection(s), the intermediate state—what happens between death and resurrection, judgment(s), heaven, hell).

Character

Faith	Love	Security	Patience	Respectfulness
Virtue	Competence	Contentment	Reasonable	Humility
Understanding	Responsibility	Encourager	Authenticity	Confidence
Self-control	Initiative	Gentleness	Forgiving	Wise in speech
Endurance	Kindness	Gratitude	Selflessness	
Godliness	Generosity	Joy	Good listener	
Brotherly affection	Courage & Value	Hope	Pure thought life	

Sermon
Types

Evangelistic *Call to Consecration & Spiritual Growth* **Doctrinal**
Inspire Adoration & Worship **Biblical Morality & Ethics** *Biblical Solutions to Life Problems*
Encouragement & Comfort *Vision for Ministry of the Church*

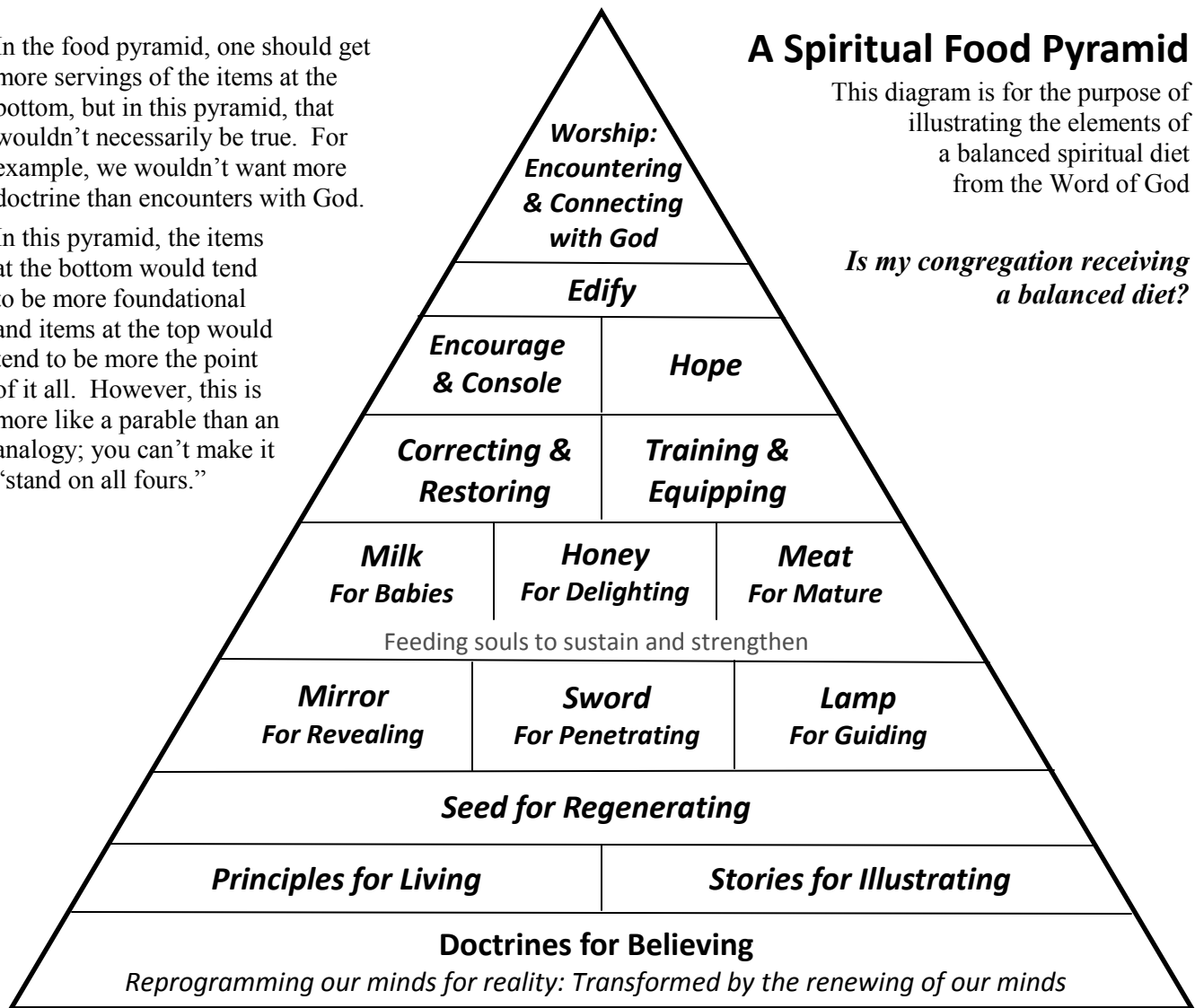
In the food pyramid, one should get more servings of the items at the bottom, but in this pyramid, that wouldn't necessarily be true. For example, we wouldn't want more doctrine than encounters with God.

In this pyramid, the items at the bottom would tend to be more foundational and items at the top would tend to be more the point of it all. However, this is more like a parable than an analogy; you can't make it "stand on all fours."

A Spiritual Food Pyramid

This diagram is for the purpose of illustrating the elements of a balanced spiritual diet from the Word of God

Is my congregation receiving a balanced diet?



1. Doctrines for Believing: II Timothy 3:16; Romans 12:2
2. Principles for Living: Deuteronomy 30:16; Psalm 119:99; Isaiah 42:24
3. Stories for Illustrating (that is, Scripture's stories illustrating biblical principles, not merely sermon illustrations): The biblical word for this is *testimonies*. I Kings 2:3; Jeremiah 44:23
4. Seed for Regenerating: James 1:21; I Corinthians 3:6-7; Mark 4:14
5. Mirror for Revealing: James 1:22-24
6. Sword for Penetrating: Hebrews 4:12
7. Lamp for Guiding: Psalm 119:105, 130
8. Food for the Soul: Deuteronomy 8:3
9. Milk for Babies: I Peter 2:2; I Corinthians 3:1-3; Hebrews 5:12-13
10. Honey for Delighting: Psalm 119:103, 174; Jeremiah 15:16 (babies & the mature can delight in the Word so it is placed between the two)
11. Meat for the Mature: Hebrews 5:13-14
12. Correcting and Restoring: II Timothy 3:16-17, 4:2; Psalm 119:67, 75
13. Training and Equipping: II Timothy 3:16-17
14. Encourage and Console: I Corinthians 14:3
15. Hope: The certain expectation and joyful anticipation of our heavenly future. Romans 15:4
16. Edify: Acts 20:32; I Corinthians 14:26
17. Worship: Encountering and Connecting with God: I Corinthians 14:24-25

Ten Periods of Bible History *Where the Books of the Bible Fit In*

1. Beginnings

- Creation: The beginning of the universe
- The Fall: The beginning of sin, suffering, and death
- The Flood: A new beginning for mankind
- 2081 BC: The Patriarchs: The beginning of God's special people, the Jews (Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob, 12 Tribes of Israel, Joseph)
- How Jacob's family ended up in Egypt

Genesis, Job (written in period of Patriarchs)

2. Deliverance & Spiritual Formation

- How the Egypt experience went bad for Jews
- 1446 BC: The Exodus: God delivers Jews from slavery in Egypt
- The Wilderness: Wandering & learning
- The Law: Given at Mount Sinai
- The Tabernacle: Built in the wilderness
- God establishes a civil code, a way to live, and proper worship for his people.

Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

3. Into the Promised Land

- 1406 BC: Entering the Promised Land
- God wanted His people to learn to fight so the 12 tribes had to fight for their allotments. — Joshua

4. Drift into Pluralism

The Period of the Judges

- "Every man did what was right in his own eyes"
- No King yet • Cycles of sin and repentance
- When the people cried out to God, He raised deliverers, called judges — Judges, Ruth

5. Kings: The Rise & Fall of the Nation

A. Establishment of the Kingdom

- First King: Saul • Greatest King: David (united the kingdom, made Jerusalem the capital)
- Wisest King: Solomon (built the temple) I Samuel, II Samuel, I Kings 1-11, I Chronicles, II Chronicles 1-9, Most Psalms, wisdom literature

B. Division and Decay

- 931 BC: Secession: 10 Northern Tribes secede from the union, called Israel; Judah and Benjamin are together called Judah in the south.

- David is the standard to which Judah's kings are all compared.
- Though there were occasional revivals, the overall trend was down. God sent prophets to warn of coming judgment and exile.

I Kings 12ff, II Kings, II Chronicles 10ff
Prophets: Jonah, Hosea, Amos, Isaiah, Micah, Nahum, Obadiah, Habakkuk, Jeremiah/Lamentations, Joel
(Listed in approximate order of writing, with Jonah & Joel estimated)

6. Judgment & Exile

- 722 BC: Samaria, capital, northern kingdom of Israel fell to Assyria, entered captivity. II Kings 17
- Three invasions of Judah by Babylon: In 605 BC, in 597, and third in 586 BC when Jerusalem (capital of Judah) fell. Captives exiled in each invasion. — II Kings 24-25, II Chronicles 36:15ff
Prophets: Ezekiel, Esther, Daniel

7. Return & Rebuilding

- 538 BC: Cyrus allows the Jews to return home and rebuild Jerusalem after 70 years in exile (just as Jeremiah prophesied).
- People return in several waves.
- Their city, temple, walls, economy, and religious life all had to be rebuilt. They had to set priorities to do all this, and not everyone is glad to have them back home.

II Chronicles 36:22ff, Ezra, Nehemiah

8. Messiah's Arrival, Ministry, & Redemptive Work

- 5 BC+/- : Beginning of the New Testament
- The often predicted, long-promised Messiah arrives, but is not what people expected.
- Jesus dies for our sins, is raised from the dead, commissions His church, and ascends back to Heaven

Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John (4 biographies written for different audiences), Acts 1

9. The Church

- 33 AD: The history of the early church: Acts
- Letters to the early church(es): The Epistles Acts, Epistles (Romans—Jude), Revelation 1-3

10. Christ's Return & Reign

Christ's return and the eternal state is predicted in many places in the Bible, including:

Matthew 24-25, I Thessalonians 4 & 5, II Thessalonians 2, Revelation

Types of Literature in the Bible

In Jesus' day, the Old Testament was divided into three types of literature, which Jesus alluded to when He said, "Everything written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled" (Luke 24:44). The Law, or Torah, is the first five books of the Bible, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. The law included some biography and history as well as rules for living. The prophets were those who brought God's word to the people. They weren't always predicting the future, though they often did that. The third category is the Psalms, which is the principal book in this category. It represents books with the songs, poems, compilations of wise sayings. Job would have been placed in this category since it addresses the problem of suffering.

Here is a list of the types of literature in the Bible:

The Law (Torah)

Though there is also history and biography in these books, they are called the Law, because they contain God's rules for living, in addition to the foundational stories of how things came to be.

Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

History / Biographical

Though Historical books is a traditional category for these books, biography is not. Biblical biographies are not like modern biographies in that they cover every period of a person's life. Instead, the biblical material tells the stories relevant to making a significant point about the person or an event and may ignore major portions of a person's life.

Old Testament: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I Samuel, II Samuel, I Kings, II Kings, I Chronicles II Chronicles, Esther, Ezra, Nehemiah.

Also containing biography and history are books listed in other categories: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy (books of the Law); Job (wisdom), Jonah and parts of Jeremiah and Daniel (prophets).

New Testament: The four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

These are biographies of Jesus. Each one was written with a different audience in mind. Called Gospels because the story of Jesus is good news!

Acts is the history of the early church.

Prophets

This refers to the prophets who have a book of the Bible bearing their names. These are divided into Major Prophets and Minor Prophets, based on the length of the books. As you look at these books in your Bible, you will find they are arranged, not in the order in which they were written, but in an order from longer to shorter. Isaiah through Daniel are considered the books of the Major Prophets and Hosea through Malachi are the books of the Minor Prophets. These were the collected writings and sermons by the prophets.

Poetry and Wisdom

In the Old Testament, poetry did not rhyme. There are some times when prophets made a play on words involving rhyme, but their poetry involved arranging parallel thoughts placed together in pairs. The second line might reinforce the first or

provide a contrast. The books of Psalms was the hymnal of the Old Testament and the book of Proverbs is a collection of wise sayings; both use this device. Sometimes the Psalms used a device where every line in a stanza started with a letter in the Hebrew alphabet; for example, Psalm 119. Since it is poetry, one would not be expected to take trees clapping their hands literally. Other writings in this category (Job, Ecclesiastes) would not be considered poetry per se, but writings that dealt with the big questions in life.

Old Testament: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

Epistles

These are all New Testament books. Epistles are letters written to an individual, a church, or a group of churches. Epistles are sub-divided as follows:

Paul's Travel Letters: Galatians, I & II Thessalonians, Romans, I & II Corinthians

Paul's Prison Letters: Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians (written from prison)

Paul's Pastoral Epistles: I & II Timothy, Titus (written to pastors)

General Epistles: James, I & II Peter, I, II, & II John, Jude (by apostles, other than Paul; these letters were generally circulated).

Apocalyptic

A form of literature using cosmic imagery that the readership would understand. Though a type of literature seen elsewhere in the first century, Revelation is the only book of this style the Bible.