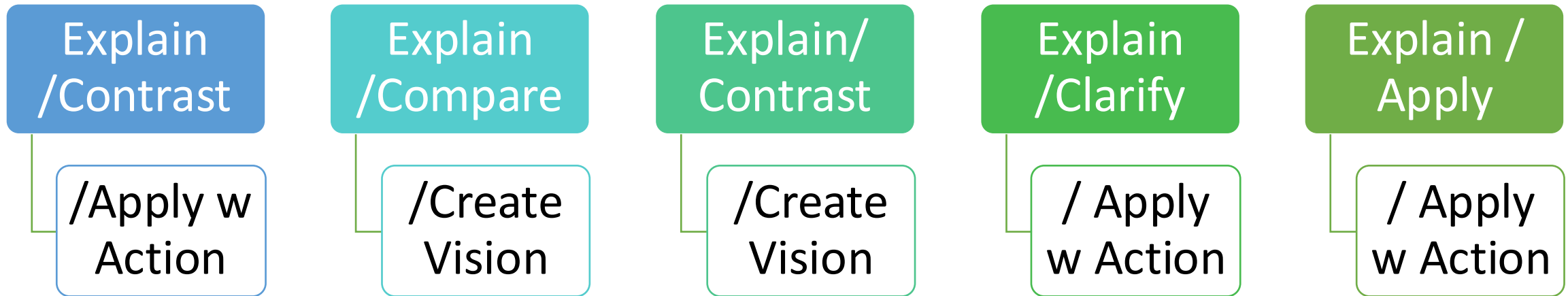




PREPARING YOUR HOMILY USING STRUCTURE

Macro Design Possibilities – *Not Really a Structure!*



Macro
Design
Possibilities

*Not Really a
Structure!*

Explain /Apply	/Challenge
Explain /Apply	/ Encourage
Explain /Apply	/Affirm
Explain /Compare	/ Apply w Action

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OPEN - Engage - Tension

Truth of the Scripture(s)

Application Today

Inspiration - Action

Send

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OPEN - Engage – Tension

Encounter

Truth of the Scripture(s)

Revelation

5 MOVEMENTS
of the GOSPEL

Application Today

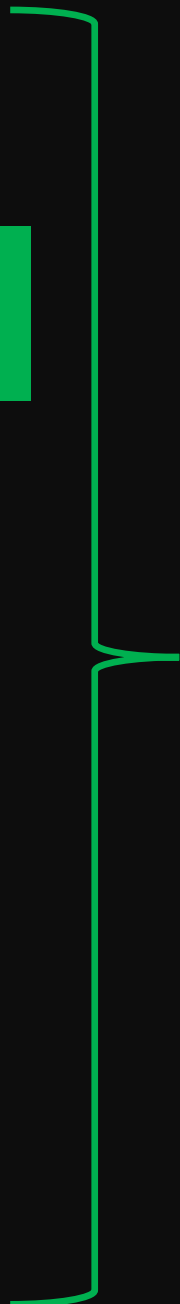
Response

Inspiration – Action

Transformation

Send

Mission



ENGAGE

Capturing the Heart

Captures ***attention*** and invites ***emotional*** connection.

Helps listener ***recognize themselves*** in the story before the Scriptures are even opened.`

Without a strong engagement, the homily never leaves the runway.

Attention fades, and ***listeners struggle to locate themselves in the message.***

ENGAGE Should Include

A story, image, or question that connects real life to faith.

Emotional authenticity — something that elicits empathy or surprise.

Brevity: roughly 5–10% of the total word count.

A smooth transition into the scriptural truth

- *“And that’s exactly what today’s Gospel shows us...”*

Different Approaches

Narrative: Begin with a true story, personal or communal - *“When my friend was facing loss...”*

1



Relatable Observation: Start where people live — the kitchen, the workplace, the classroom.

2



Provocative question or image: *“If someone asked you to picture a king, what would you see?”*

3



Paradox: *“The holiest place on earth might just be your kitchen table.”*



How It Fits

The Engage sets the emotional tone

Stirs curiosity and open the listener's heart, preparing the soil for the seed of Scripture

TRUTH OF THE SCRIPTURES

Revealing God's Word

- This is the theological core of the homily — where Scripture is proclaimed, interpreted, and made relevant.
- The preacher serves as bridge-builder between the Word and the world.

TRUTH Should Include

Brief exegesis or theological insight — not a classroom lecture, but an unpacking of divine truth.

A clear connection between the Scripture readings and the Engage story.

A focus on one central theme or truth, not all three readings equally.

Language that keeps the listener grounded
“In today’s Gospel, Jesus reminds us that...”

Different Approaches

Exegetical Lens:

Explain the background and meaning of a key word or phrase.

Thematic Lens:

Trace a recurring theme (mercy, faith, trust).

Contrast Lens:

Show how the Gospel redefines worldly values (e.g., “Our King wears a crown of thorns.”).



How It Fits

This section answers the question:

What is God saying?

Grounds the homily in ***divine authority*** and gives the listener confidence that what follows flows from the living Word!



APPLICATION

Connecting Faith to Life

If the Truth section answers *What does God say?*, the Application answers *So what does that mean for me?*

Preacher translates *revelation into lived discipleship*.
It's the *bridge from the sanctuary to the sidewalk*.

APPLICATION

Should
Include

Concrete examples of *how this Gospel can be lived out in ordinary life.*

Personal reflection: “Maybe forgiveness begins with a phone call.”

Inclusive language that invites “*we,*” *not* “you”.

Realistic acknowledgment *of difficulty: discipleship costs something.*

Different Approaches

Describe

Situational:

Describe modern situations where the Gospel applies (**family conflict, fear, grief**).

Highlight

Virtue-focused:

Highlight a virtue emerging from the Gospel (*patience, compassion, courage*).

Contrast

Contrast:

Show what happens when the Word is ***ignored vs. lived.***



How It Fits

Application gives ***traction*** to the Word.

It's where ***people begin to imagine living differently — to connect:***

- ***Faith with behaviour***
 - ***Prayer with practice***
-



INSPIRATION

Awakening Hope

Lifts the listener's heart.

It rekindles the joy and confidence that faith makes transformation possible

Turns

understanding into desire

INSPIRATION

Should Include

A short, related, evocative image, scene or quote that embodies the hope of the Scriptures

A clear sense of God's ongoing action — the Spirit still moves, heals, and saves.

Encouragement that acknowledges struggle yet emphasizes grace.



Different Approaches

Witness:

Share how faith has made a difference in your life or someone else's.

Imagery:

Paint a vision of what redeemed life looks like.

Contrast of darkness and light:

Show what grace transforms.

How It Fits

- Inspiration ***breathes spiritual energy*** back into the listener.
- It ***prepares them to move outward*** — to act, serve, and ***share faith*** with confidence.

SEND

Commissioning to Live the Word

Every homily should end with a mission

- Should always:
 - ***Draw*** the listener back to the opening theme
 - ***Complete*** the narrative circle
 - ***Turn*** our reflection into action

SEND Should Include

A concise *summary* of the central truth

A call to *action* or *attitude* to carry into the week

A *closing echo* of the *Engage* image, linking beginning and end.

Tone: confident, hopeful, outward-looking.

Different Approaches

- **Echo technique:** *Repeat* or *reframe* a line or image from the **Engage**
“So when you leave today, remember — holiness isn’t far away. It’s right where you stand”
- **Blessing tone:** Speak as though **commissioning** disciples
- **Challenge with comfort:** **Encourage** without **scolding**; **invite** transformation with **joy**

How It Fits

The Send ensures that the *homily doesn't fade* with the final hymn.

It answers Jesus' command:

“Go and make disciples.”

The listener leaves not merely informed
but ignited!

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OPEN - Engage – Tension

5% (40)

**% based on 800 total
(# words)**

Truth of the Scripture(s) **30% (240)**

Application Today **35% (280)**

Inspiration – Action **20% (160)**

Send **10% (80)**

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Conclusion

This Structure:

Is not a restriction – it's a ***framework for freedom!***

- *Honours and respects:*
 - *The Word of God*
 - *Process of human cognition, understanding and learning*
- *Homilist can craft messages that:*
 - *Begin with life*
 - *Speak to the heart and intellect*
 - *Reveal God's Truth and invite human transformation!*



Q & A