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# Finding Language And Imagery: Words For Holy Speech (Elements Of Preaching)



## Finding Language and Imagery

Jennifer L. Lord

Elements of Preaching   
O. Wesley Allen Jr., series editor



## Synopsis

Sermons use words. And though it appears obvious that preachers should be careful and exacting in word choice, novice preachers often set aside this aspect of preaching in favor of exegetical work and sermonic focus. Nonetheless preachers subscribe to preaching aids, peruse preaching websites, and purchase annuals of sermon illustrations in order to adorn their sermons with apt imagery. Preachers look for other's words to amplify their own. The weekly work with language is daunting: Preachers must be disciplined to find fresh phrases for sermons and to make good choices about their own words and those borrowed from others as language shapes faith. This volume introduces the power of language to determine reality, the intricacies of language issues for preaching, and the custodial task of preachers for this work.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jennifer L. Lord is Associate Professor of Homiletics and Dean of the Chapel at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She is a Presbyterian minister and joined the seminary faculty in 2005. She is a contributing author to *New Proclamation Commentary on Feasts: Holy Days and Other Celebrations* (Fortress Press); and to *Best Advice for Pastors and Preachers* (forthcoming).

Used this book in my Seminary studies. Great resource.

This is a short book on preaching, but it has a specialized focus. It comes from a series of books on

the various elements of preaching, such as delivery, text to sermon, styles of preaching, and this book deals with the use of language to communicate the message. The book incorporates post modern communication theory into preaching theory. The words that we use shape reality around us. Words have a semantic impact on people. The use of a word creates emotion, and is evocative. The book goes into the theory, but mostly deals with the application of these style. The words can do various tricks, it can clarify, persuade, transforms, and interrupts. But what I enjoyed most is how to create a language for a sermon. In a sermon, you want to know what the major goal is first. Are you seeking to transform the people through the word, good, then move to a language or better a metaphor to accomplish the goal. Instead of having various parts of a sermon, use a metaphor or a language throughout to better communicate effectively. This is a good primer on this skill in preaching. It is a short, compact book, to create a better flow in your sermon, and it teaches you how to do this in the later chapters.

On Wish List so just what she wanted

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