

Tips for Preaching to a camera

1. BODY PLACEMENT. Aim to use the middle upper third of the screen for your head and chest



2. EYES. To borrow a line from Finding Nemo- "The lens is your friend". Look at the lens, not your image on the screen. Talk to the lens... imagine the lens is a person in your congregation. Put a **coloured sticker** near the lens so that you look at it throughout your sermon. Don't read your sermon - people need to see your eyes.
3. EXPRESSION. Camera's have a 'dulling effect', so you may need to be a bit more expressive, a bit more emotional than usual in order to engage people through the lens and not seem 'wooden'.
4. HANDS. Use them. Apparently it helps people to see us as trustworthy.
5. HEART. *Sincere* trumps *slick*. Be yourself, love God's word and have passion for what your'e preaching. It will come across.
6. DISTANCE TO CAMERA. One and a half arm-lengths - quite close. This way, people can see your eyes, which helps you to communicate better.
7. BACKGROUND. Simple and uncluttered? Interesting? Plain white? It's your call, but think about it. Do check the background before hitting record, making sure that any distracting elements are removed from the picture, that any horizontal lines are level, that it

doesn't look like you've got a cross sticking out of your head!



8. Using a second camera? I haven't done this as it would complicate the editing process and I only have one tripod, but if you have the equipment and the help, do it.
9. PULPIT or STUDY or LIVING ROOM? All have merit. Your personal study and/ or living room are honest 'real' expressions of life in lockdown. (just DON'T use your bedroom.)
10. LENGTH OF SERMON. Aim for a slightly shorter sermon than you usually preach- this will help you to be tighter, less sloppy with words.
11. LIGHTING. Use lamps to light up what is behind and shine a light on the speaker from above. This creates shadows and adds some depth to the image.
12. SOUND. It's worth purchasing a microphone that can plug into your camera or smart phone- the quality will be far superior.



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