

In this guidelines document, you will find the following important explanations:

- **Special Features:** the contents of the Special Features documents and how to use them.
- **Teaching Principles:** how the sermons are built, and important principles to incorporate when teaching through *The Story*.
- **Sermon Video Library:** which of Frazee and Lucado's 31 sermons are included in our online video library.

Special Features for Sermons

The Special Features documents contain the following types of sermon helps that were extracted from the messages preached by Randy Frazee and Max Lucado for the 31 weeks of The Story. The ideas they incorporated into their messages can be adapted and used when putting together your sermons. These ideas are organized topically, so it will be helpful to work with them in conjunction with the sermon outlines in order to see the sequence of the points in each message.

NOTE: Randy Frazee taught through the Old Testament, and Max Lucado taught the New Testament. On two of the weeks, Randy and Max covered for each other, so Week 19 is a Max Lucado sermon, and Week 29 is a Randy Frazee sermon.

Illustrations (stories, humor)

If Max or Randy used a story, a joke, a clever turn of words, or gave a gripping illustration of a concept, it is provided for you in this section. In some cases the complete story is related in the Sermon Outline, which is posted to Online Resource Library on the Weekend Services page.

Visual Features (visuals, audience engagement)

This section contains any of the ideas Randy or Max did where they introduced a visual object lesson, or did something to get the audience involved, such as projecting an image onto the screen, writing something on a flip chart, boiling a frog, having people draw on the maps inside their books, or prompting them to verbally respond. To support you in re-creating the visuals, you are provided with the following resources:

1. **Maps:** The maps from the inside of the book are provided as .jpg files so you can project them on a screen and pre-draw on them what you want people to draw in their books. The maps are posted to the Online Resource Library on the Weekend Services page.
2. **Scriptures:** In order to locate the text of the scripture you want to project on a screen, use the Specific Verse Reference Lists, posted to the Online Resource Library on the Weekend Services page. This "pastor's cheat-sheet" sequentially lists the detailed verse references as they appear in each chapter of *The Story*, and they are live-linked to Bible Gateway so you can copy the actual verse text into your media file, or verify the verse reference so you can refer to it during your sermon.

3. **Handouts:** When a handout was distributed at Oak Hills Church, a copy of the handout is provided in the Sermon Features folder for your reference. You may duplicate it, or re-create it using updated graphics and logos from the Church Campaign Resource DVD.

Upper Story/Lower Story

Throughout the sermon series, and throughout the curriculum lesson plans for children, youth and adults, the concept of the upper story and lower story is a running theme. To help you draw out this important concept and communicate how it is seen in each chapter, the upper story/lower story connection is explained. Often the upper story/lower story explanation forms the review for the whole series, helping people catch up with where this week's message fits in if they are just joining you.

*Much of the Upper Story/Lower Story material is taught by Randy Frazee in the adult curriculum DVD. The adult curriculum video lessons were based on his original teaching in these sermons, so be aware that **there will be overlap** between those videos and the Upper Story/Lower Story segments of these sermon features documents.*

Applications

Sometimes in the middle of the message, always at the end, are points where the message shifts from teaching to conviction, from didactic to personal. These application points are summarized in this last section.

Teaching Principles

*In putting these sermons together for *The Story*, Randy Frazee and Max Lucado implemented some important teaching principles that you should be aware of as you prepare your own messages.*

Point, Place, People, Plot, Point Restated

In every message of Randy and Max's you can find these elements. They formed the basic building blocks for the sermons so that Randy and Max could be consistent between them in how their sermons were built. Sometimes in the Sermon Features documents the 'point' or the 'place' will be identified.

Don't assume familiarity

Don't assume people know the Bible story you're about to tell. Just because it's familiar to you doesn't mean it's familiar to even the seasoned Christians in your congregation. Randy repeatedly did this in the first few weeks, prefacing a point by saying, "You know the story..." and finally several people asked him to stop saying that, because more often than not, they **didn't** know the story.

Reinforce *The Story*

Because you are leading your church through a spiritual growth experience based on a special edition of the Bible, it is important to reinforce its value and usefulness to each person's journey as you teach through it.

- **Refer to *The Story*.** When citing passages in the text, refer to the page and paragraph in *The Story*, as well as the scripture reference ("On Page 1 in *The Story*, or Genesis 1:1..."). This will probably feel cumbersome, but it is important to send people to their copy of *The Story* to find the text. Many people will bring both *The Story* and their Bible to church, so be sure to provide both references so people can follow along in both places. Seeing the passage in both *The Story* and the Bible is a great way to get people to see their Bible in a fresh new way.

- **Read from *The Story*.** Whenever possible, read your text directly from your copy of *The Story*. Nothing reinforces the value of this book like the pastor using it to preach from. If you cross-reference a passage from a different part of the Bible, it is not necessary to locate the cross-reference text in *The Story* also.

Video Sermon Library

There is a video sermon library on the Weekend Services page of the Online Resource Library that contains messages taught by selected ministers, to give you ideas as you put together your own sermons. Randy Frazee and Max Lucado gave permission for half of their messages to be included in this library. They are using their sermons as the basis for their co-authored book based on The Story, so they need to protect their sermon content to a certain degree, but they have generously allowed us to share some of their sermon videos with other pastors.

To access the library, [CLICK HERE](#), then access this private album by entering the password, **TheStory**.

Here are the messages from Oak Hills Church that were chosen to include in the video sermon library.

Introduction:	Deal or No Deal
Chapter 1	Creation: The Beginning of Life as We Know It
Chapter 3	Joseph: From Slave to Deputy Pharaoh
Chapter 4	Deliverance
Chapter 11	From Shepherd to King
Chapter 13	The King Who Had It All
Chapter 14	A Kingdom Torn in Two
Chapter 15	God's Messengers
Chapter 16	The Beginning of the End
Chapter 19	The Return Home
Chapter 21	Rebuilding the Walls
Chapter 22	The Birth of the King
Chapter 25	Jesus, the Son of God
Chapter 26	The Hour of Darkness
Chapter 29	Paul's Mission
Chapter 30	Paul's Final Days