7 Sermon Series Guaranteed to Grow Your Church

Pastor Tim Lucas

Liquid Church

www.LiquidChurch.com



Special resource prepared for unSeminary podcast with Rich Birch

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Introduction

Every preacher feels the pressure: Sunday's always coming! If you're a Bible communicator at a growing church, you understand that killer content is king. But let's be honest: it's a challenge to come up with dynamic, Christ-centered sermons week in & week out. How can you ensure that your messages are:

- Biblically balanced?
- ☐ Culturally engaged?
- □ Creatively delivered?



Even more importantly: How can you be sure they produce spiritual growth and fruit in the lives of both new believers & mature disciples?

In this free ebook, we'll look at 7 sample sermon series guaranteed to grow your church in evangelism, discipleship, prayer, fasting, generosity, serving, and outreach to your community. These are 7 strategic sermon series that God has used in a pivotal way to exponentially grow disciples at Liquid Church-- one of America's 100 Fastest-Growing Churches (Outreach magazine 2018). As you will see, most sermons feature creative elements (graphics, videos, props, staging, small group resources, etc) designed to creatively bring God's Word to life. Our hope is they will inspire preachers with some fresh ideas to try in your own ministry & unique context!

About the Author



TIM LUCAS is the founder and lead pastor of Liquid Church, named one of America's 100 Fastest-Growing Churches by Outreach magazine (2018). Tim started Liquid "on accident" with a dozen twenty-something friends meeting in the basement of a 150-year old church. Since launching in 2007, Liquid has experienced rapid growth and thousands of changed lives. The innovative church has grown to seven locations across New Jersey with 5,000 people in attendance and more than 2,300 baptisms to date.

Tim is the author of *Liquid Church: 6 Powerful Currents to*Saturate Your City for Christ (Zondervan, September 2019).

His latest book, co-authored with Dr. Warren Bird, is now available for pre-order from Zondervan or Amazon.

A dynamic communicator, Tim is a sought-after conference speaker known for creatively communicating the Bible to post-Christian audiences with passion, heart, and humor. His innovative approaches to outreach have been spotlighted by Fox News, <u>CNN</u>, *The Today Show* and the *New York Times*.

Tim leads the **Northeast Pastors Coaching Network** to equip and mentor senior pastors, ministry leaders, and church planters to reach the next generation for Christ. A graduate of Wheaton College (IL), Tim and his wife Colleen raise their two children just outside of New York City.

SOCIAL Follow Tim on <u>Instagram</u> and Twitter @pastortimlucas

SPEAKING For speaking requests and coaching inquiries, contact <u>Jannet@LiquidChurch.com</u>.

WEB Visit <u>LiquidChurch.com</u> to view Tim's message catalog and more.

BOOK Visit LiquidChurchBook.com for an exclusive offer for church leaders.

FAST: 40 DAYS TO BREAKTHROUGH

// Series Summary

In America, we eat for all the wrong reasons-- when we're tired, stressed, bored, or sad. Our stomach may be full, but our spirit can feel empty. Do you feel physically tired or spiritually sluggish? For 40 days, imagine your entire church participating in a Daniel Fast in which we cut the carbs and comfort food and "eat clean" -- primarily fruits, vegetables, and water.



Our goal is simple: To detox our body and soul so we can draw closer to Christ! Are you ready for a fresh touch from the Spirit? Are you more hungry for God than a hamburger? Learn to unleash God's breakthrough power through a 40-day FAST!

// Growth Goals

Discipleship; Spiritual Disciplines; Fasting; Prayer; Small Groups

// Sermons & Scriptures

• Fast Food	Daniel 1
• Fasting for Breakthrough	Daniel 10
• Hunger Strike Against Hell	Luke 4:1-14
Prevailing Prayer	Exodus 17:8-13
• Power to Heal	Mark 9:14-29



• God's Chosen Fast Isaiah 58

Last Supper

Matt 26:17-30

// Special Features

These 3 resources help build and sustain a sense of community & momentum over 40 days:

- Fasting Small Groups Guide
- Daily Facebook Devotionals (7@7)
- Special Prayer & Worship Night



// Planning Notes

- Churchwide Campaign This series works well as a churchwide Small Groups campaign-- where all Groups (both adults & students) are aligned for 40 days focused on fasting, praying, and serving together.
- **Preaching Calendar** Teaching through a churchwide fasting series works best at the start of the year (Jan) or during the season of Lent (40 days leading up to Easter).

// Watch It

View this 7-week sermon series at https://liquidchurch.com/messages/fast-2-series

SE7EN CHURCHES OF REVELATION

// Series Summary

In a culture that is increasingly hostile to the Christian faith, people often ask if the Bible is still relevant for today? Is God still speaking? Of course He is. The real question is: Are we listening? Imagine if your church received a letter from Jesus Himself. What would He say about your love for God? Endurance in trials? Faithful service? Would His words bring commendation... or condemnation? We do, in fact, have such a letter.



In Revelation, the last book of the Bible, Jesus' words to 7 churches are as relevant today as they were in the 1st century. In this 7-part series-- SE7EN Churches of Revelation-- we'll read Jesus' 7 letters to 7 churches and learn how to experience God's blessing and serve Him effectively in a culture that's increasingly hostile to faith.

// Growth Goals

Discipleship; Small Groups; New Testament literacy; Eschatology

// Sermons & Scriptures

• Ephesus // The Forgetful Church Revelation 2:1-7

• Smyrna // The Suffering Church Revelation 2:8-11

Pergamum // The Compromising Church Revelation 2:12-17

• Thyatira // The Tolerant Church Revelation 2:18-29

• Sardis // The Slumbering Church Revelation 3:1-6

- Philadelphia // The Enduring Church Revelation 3:7-13
- Laodicea // The Lukewarm Church Revelation 3:14-22

// Special Features







SE7EN Groups Guide

Travel Photography (Turkey)

Social Media

Squares

// Planning Notes

Revelation is a very visual book of the Bible full of strange & intriguing symbols. Creative staging and props will help bring it to life in the minds of modern audiences.







For example, we had a mailbox onstage where the pastor pulled out and read a "letter from Jesus" to each church every Sunday. We hung illuminated stars and had many creative elements to illustrate ancient concepts in modern-day terms including:

- A heart frozen in a block of ice (to illustrate love for Christ grown cold)
- A juice press (to illustrate suffering Christians feeling the squeeze)
- And a spitting pastor (lukewarm water spit out of Jesus' mouth)

// Watch It

View this 7-week sermon series at https://liquidchurch.com/messages/se7en-series

LOVE COMES TO TOWN

// Series Summary



Love is the greatest thing the world has ever known! We all need just a little love. In a world that seems increasingly cold & disconnected, love can seem like a luxury. But it's the whole point of life, according to Jesus. Teach your church how to love God, each other, their families, and neighbors in revolutionary ways!

This series culminates in a week-long community outreach called "Love Week" designed to mobilize your people to sacrificially serve their neighbors!

// Growth Goals

Evangelism; Service; Community Outreach

// Sermons & Scriptures

• The Gong Show 1 Corinthians 13:1-2

Love Actually 1 Corinthians 13:4-6

Like A Good Neighbor Luke 10:25-37

• To Tell You The Truth Ephesians 4:15

• Triggered Ephesians 4:26-32

• Everlasting Love 1 Corinthians 13: 7



// Special Features





Small Groups Guide

Love Week Outreach T-shirts

// Planning Notes

Outreach Orientation

This series culminates in "Love Week"-- leading your church to put their faith into action by loving their neighbors through acts of sacrificial service (ie: raking leaves; tutoring kids; beautifying playgrounds; packing meals for the hungry; backpacks for homeless veterans). Outreach projects must be carefully planned 4 months in advance.

Calendar

Perfect series for the Spring or Fall-- people are eager to be outside, wear the T-shirts, and engage their community!

// Watch It

View this sermon series at https://liquidchurch.com/messages/love-comes-to-town-series

AT THE MOVIES

// Series Summary



Lights, camera... action! At The Movies is a special sermon series that explores the biblical truth behind Hollywood's biggest hits. From Wonder Woman to The Greatest Showman to I Can Only Imagine we'll be screening clips and munching on free popcorn in church... laughing & learning together!

This is a great summer series that motivates people to invite their family & unbelieving friends to church-we'll see you *At The Movies!*

// Growth Goals

Evangelism; Cultural Engagement

// Sermons & Scriptures

• The Greatest Showman Luke 5:12-13; 27-32

• Darkest Hour 2 Kings 18-19

• The Incredibles 1 Samuel 13-14

• I Can Only Imagine Luke 23:32-39

• Hacksaw Ridge Luke 6:27-36

• Wonder Woman 1 Timothy 2:11-12

• Lion Luke 15:4-10

• The Shack John 14:1-21



// Special Features







Free popcorn in church

Family Movie Night

// Planning Notes

• Building a Bridge

This series is designed to build a bridge between our culture and God's Word using the power of story. Each week, we show a movie trailer and short video clips that illustrate the deeper scriptural truths

embedded in the story. Don't let the "shiny wrapper" fool you-- this is a powerful series that disarms listeners and tackles difficult Scriptural subjects. For example: Hacksaw Ridge - forgiving & loving your enemies; Wonder Women - the role of women in ministry & leadership; The Shack - why does God allow unspeakable evil?



Evangelism

3 weeks prior to this series, challenge & equip people to invite their unsaved friends & neighbors to this special series. It's an "easy ask"-- Who doesn't love summer movies? And free popcorn in church? Be sure to print special invite cards in advance for people to hand-out and invite their friends to this series!

Calendar

This series is ideal for the summer months-- July or August work best & the topics are unrelated (vacation). Rent a giant screen and culminate the series with an outdoor "Family Movie Night" and invite your whole community!

// Watch It

View this sermon series at https://liquidchurch.com/messages/at-the-movies-series and https://liquidchurch.com/messages/at-the-movies-series and

IN GOD WE TRUST

// Series Summary



Every dollar in our pocket is printed with a simple slogan *In God We Trust*. Yet when we look around, our trust often seems placed in everything but God-- money, wealth, possessions, health, and security! Too often, we live each day trusting only what we have... and fearing what we need. But what if we shifted our trust from the almighty dollar to Almighty God?

In this faith-building stewardship series, come discover the peace, joy, and freedom God created you for! Join us for *In God We Trust*.

// Growth Goals

Stewardship; Tithing; Financial Freedom; Money Management; Generosity

// Sermons & Scriptures

• God's M&Ms Malachi 3:8-10

Act Your Wage Luke 14:28-30;

Proverbs 27:23-24

• The Debt Trap 1 Timothy 6:6-10



// Special Features

This 3-week stewardship series kicks-off with a special *90-Day Tithe Challenge* designed to teach people the foundational principle of biblical stewardship. The Bible tells us to never test God-- except in one area... with our tithe! When we honor God first with our finances, He promises to bless the rest (Malachi 3:6-12).



For 3 months, challenge people to "take God at His Word" and tithe 10% of their income back to their local church. Promise: If you tithe for 3 months and feel God hasn't proved faithful to His promises, we will refund 100% of your tithe, no questions asked. It's a money-back guarantee back by God!

This powerful promise from Malachi will help re-engage lapsed tithers, onboard new givers, inspire occasional donors to give regularly, and increase the level of generosity in your ministry. In our church, we have seen a 10% increase in weekly giving following a successful 90-Day Tithe Challenge.

// Planning Notes

Calendar

This stewardship series fits best at the start of a season where 3 months naturally run together: At the start of the year (Jan-Feb-March); the summer months (June-July-August); start of the Fall (Sept-Oct-Nov).

• 90-Day Tithe Challenge Landing Page

Consider creating a landing page on your church website with the 90-Day Tithe Challenge along with a testimonial video. View an example here:

https://liquidchurch.com/give/90-day-tithe-challenge/

Response Card

Prepare a printed Response Card for people to fill-out in response to the 90-Day Tithe Challenge. It is not a





Are you ready to put God first in your finances? A tithe, which just means "tenth," is defined as the first 10% of a person's income that is returned to God through the local church. Tithing is a biblical principle that invites God's blessing on our lives and

commitment card-- it is simply requesting more information. Within 24 hours, follow-up with an email that has all the details including how to give systematically (ie: weekly, online, electronic bill pay).

For every person who takes the 90-Day Tithe Challenge, send them a personal note of thanks along with a free copy of "The Treasure Principle" by Randy Alcorn encouraging them to honor God first in their finances.

Financial Peace University

Most people want to be more generous... but with debt & bills they don't know where to begin! As part of this series, plan to offer Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University-- a 9-week class that teaches biblical principles of money management including debt reduction, budgeting, and generosity.

See sample landing page here: https://liquidchurch.com/fpu



JOIN US FOR FPU AT LIQUID CHURCH



Financial Peace University is a 9-week Group for men and women who want to control & manage their finances according to biblical principles. In this course, you' learn Dave Ramsey's 7 easy-to-follow steps to create a budget, get out of debt, and walks a lost for every money.

// Watch It

View this 3-part stewardship sermon series at https://liquidchurch.com/messages/in-god-we-trust-series/

DREAM TEAM

// Series Summary



Teamwork makes God's dream work!

The Dream Team is a group of extraordinary people who are using their gifts & passions to change the world! From feeding the hungry, to mentoring the next generation of kids & students, to using media-video-photography skills to bring the Gospel to visual life-- we are a group of all-in Christ followers

who forcefully advance the Kingdom of God! Dream Team is a series on serving in the local church meant to inspire those sitting on the sidelines to get onto the playing field!

// Growth Goals

Serving; Volunteers; Leadership; Discipleship

// Sermons & Scriptures

• Teamwork Makes God's Dream Work Acts 6:1-7

• Get Involved! James 2



// Special Features







Dream Team T-shirts

// Planning Notes

Activating Volunteers

This special sermon requires advance planning & coordination with all volunteer teams-- from Parking to Worship to Media to Prayer to Kids & Students. From the beginning, you must have have leaders on hand in the service to capture names & emails and follow-up with those who step up to serve after this "call to action" sermon. Follow-up must be within 24 hours-- the goal is to get them trained, onto the field, & serving in 2 weeks!

Dream Team Expo

A best practice is to plan an after-service Dream Team Expo where people are encouraged to visit tables staffed by volunteer leaders of different ministries and sign-up to serve.



Cut your sermon short and tell your people to visit volunteer tables at the Expo. Encourage your leaders to creatively decorate their table-- our Spanish Translation ministry offers chips-and-salsa; Student Ministry gives out a Superbowl basket with treats for those who visit & sign-up to mentor a student.

Calendar

Recruiting new ministry volunteers is most effective in the New Year (Jan/Feb) and early summer (for upcoming Fall). Be sure to spotlight existing volunteers & share testimonies of life change through serving!

// Watch It

View this sermon series at https://liquidchurch.com/messages/dream-team-series

GOD OF MIRACLES

// Series Summary



Walk where Jesus walked and encounter the *God of Miracles!* In this 7-part series filmed on-location in Israel, we will journey in the footsteps of our Savior-- visiting the synagogues where Jesus taught...the water on which he walked... the places where Jesus healed... the garden where he suffered... and the

empty tomb where Christ was raised! This 7-week series based on the Gospel of Mark uses history and archaeology to bring the Bible to life by visiting the land where it all began.

// Growth Goals

(Jordan River)

Discipleship; Gospel Literacy; Small Groups

// Sermons & Scriptures

• Baptized in the Desert Mark 1:1-11

Healing the Sick Mark 1:21-34;(Capernaum) 2:1-12

• Sermon on the Mount Matthew 5

• Calming the Storm Mark 4:35-41





(Sea of Galilee)

(Mount of Beatitudes)

Jericho Mark 10: 46-52;
 (Jericho) Luke 19: 1-9

Journey to the Cross Mark 10:32-34; 11:1-10;
 (Mount of Olives; Gethsemane) 14:32-36; 15:16-26

• Easter at the Empty Tomb Mark 15:42-47; 16:1-6

(Jerusalem; Garden Tomb)



// Special Features

Each sermon features short iPhone videos shot on location at the Jordan River,
Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, Sea of
Galilee, Jericho, Jerusalem, Mount of Olives,
Garden of Gethsemane, the Garden Tomb,
and more!



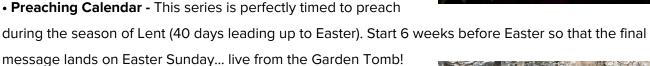






// Planning Notes

• Churchwide Campaign - This series works well as a churchwide Small Groups campaign-- where all discipleship Groups are aligned for 40-day virtual pilgrimage-- journeying together chronologically through the Gospel of Mark!





View this 7-week sermon series at https://liquidchurch.com/messages/god-of-miracles-series/



Permission to Use Freely

At Liquid Church, we have a heart to help local churches thrive and reach people far from Jesus. That's why we're sharing these sermon series resources with you for free. *Seriously... free!* I genuinely believe that when we put aside our logos and egos, the kingdom wins and Jesus gets the glory!

So consider this official permission to use, repurpose, or customize any message content in your own ministry setting without attribution to Liquid Church. Just promise to make it better and pass it on! (Freely you've received... now freely give ;-)

If you'd like to request specific graphics, slides, videos, small group materials, or other sermon series assets, just email Nithin@LiquidChurch.com. When your church wins... God's kingdom grows!

For the kingdom,

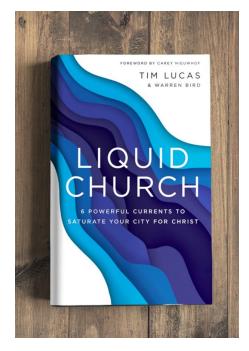
Tim

Tim Lucas, Lead Pastor

www.LiquidChurch.com

Ready to Dive Deeper?

Check out Tim's brand-new book from Zondervan-- the most trusted name in Christian publishing.



In today's fluid culture, many churches are adrift-- longing to reach spiritually thirsty people, but failing to make an impact. Have you noticed?

Congregations are stuck or declining.

Millennials and Gen Z are walking away.

Volunteers and their generosity are drying up.

Is your city, town, or neighborhood spiritually dry? Do you long to see more of the living water of Jesus flowing freely through your community, generating a fresh wave of ministry momentum?

Buckle up: you're in for a whitewater ride!

Liquid Church tells the fascinating story of a New Jersey church that began "on accident" and grew into one of America's 100 Fastest-Growing Churches, with over 5,000 in

weekly attendance and more than 2,300 baptisms to date. Their secret? They harnessed the power of six powerful ministry currents sweeping across North America including: special needs, creative communication, ministry mergers, compassionate cause, radical generosity, and leadership culture.

With powerful stories and scriptural insights, backed by national research, Tim Lucas and Warren Bird describe dozens of fresh ideas, new ministry wineskins, and hard-won leadership learnings that resonate with rising generations in today's "show-then-tell" culture. Each chapter includes practical tools, real-life examples, and links to "Other Churches Making Waves" with cutting-edge ministry ideas designed to help saturate your city for Christ.

Whether you serve a brand-new church plant, fast-growing congregation, or an aging ministry ready for reinvention, Liquid Church is an inspiring and practical guide for leaders ready to reach their spiritually thirsty neighbors-- those who have given up on church, but haven't given up on God.



PRE-ORDER Pre-order your copy of this brand-new book directly from **Zondervan** or **Amazon**.

What Others Are Saying

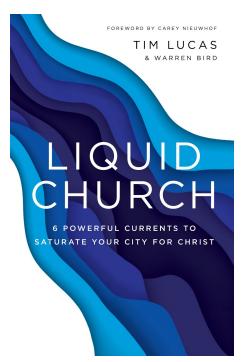


"This book will grip you, just like Tim's teaching and leadership have gripped so many thousands of people in the Northeast and beyond. In my view, the chapter on preaching (Chapter 5) is worth the price of the book alone. If you want to reach the next generation of young adults, you've picked up the right book."

- Carey Nieuwhof, host of The Carey Nieuwhof Leadership

Podcast; founding pastor of Connexus Church; best-selling author
of Didn't See It Coming.

Exclusive Offer for Church Leaders



Pre-order your copy of this brand-new book from <u>Zondervan</u> or <u>Amazon</u> to receive special bonus content:

- **Pre-order 1 copy and receive** the first 3 chapters for free (PDF download).
- Pre-order 10+ copies and receive the first 3 chapters; free curriculum for Small Groups, Staff or Individual Study; downloadable discussion guide; chapter video sessions with Tim.
- Pre-order 25+ copies and receive all of the above PLUS a
 60-minute live video or coaching call with Tim so you and your staff,
 board, or leadership team can ask your own questions.

Simply email your receipt to Book@LiquidChurch.com to receive your exclusive bonus content!