

An overview of the development of a Big Idea message.

²⁴ Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! ²⁵ All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. ²⁶ So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. ²⁷ I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NLT

The Big Idea

The Supporting Ideas

The Defining Ideas

STEP 1: CREATE A TEXTUAL OUTLINE

Text: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NLT

Big Idea: Run to win! Vs. 24

1. Supporting Idea: Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? Vs. 24
2. Supporting Idea: All athletes are disciplined in their training. Vs. 25a
3. Supporting Idea: but we do it for an eternal prize. Vs. 25c
 - a. Defining Idea: They do it to win a prize that will fade away. Vs. 25b
4. Supporting Idea: So I run with purpose in every step. Vs. 26a
 - a. Defining Idea: I am not just shadowboxing. Vs. 26b
5. Supporting Idea: I discipline my body like an athlete. VS. 27a
 - a. Defining Idea: training it to do what it should. Vs. 27b
 - b. Defining Idea: I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified. Vs. 27c

STEP 2. CREATE A HOMELITICAL OUTLINE

How We Can Live the Victorious Christian Life?

Run to win! Vs. 24

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NLT

- Many Christian live defeated lives. Their lives are marked by repeated failures, endless setbacks, and recurring downfalls. God's design is for us to move through the three stages of spiritual life cycle; birth, growth, reproduction.

- a. By realizing it's not automatic.
 - *Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? Vs. 24*
 - Determined to study... Ezra 7:10
 - You're as spiritually mature as you choose to be. Rick Warren.

- b. By knowing there are some things every Christian must abstain from and engage in.
 - *All athletes are disciplined in their training. Vs. 25a*
 - Acts 15:29; Galatians 2:10. Abstain from sexual immorality, help the poor.

- c. By focusing on our reward after this life.
 - *but we do it for an eternal prize. Vs. 25b*
 - Live for what will be, not what is. James 1:12
 - a. Not rewards that have no lasting value.
 - *They do it to win a prize that will fade away.*

- d. By being missional.
 - *So I run with purpose in every step. Vs. 26a*
 - a. And not wasting my resources on things that don't contribute to the Great commission.
 - *I am not just shadowboxing. Vs. 26b*
 - Here are ways we "shadowbox"
 - By not leveraging our assets.
 - By not leaving our idols.

- e. By knowing there are some things that I, myself must abstain from.
 - *I discipline my body like an athlete. VS. 27as*
 - Notice the use of the first person pronouns starting in vs. 26
 - a. By maintaining my spiritual health.
 - Engaging in regular "spiritual workouts."
 - *training it to do what it should. Vs. 27b*
 - Read, study, teach the Bible.
 - b. By guarding against things that would destroy my reputation and erase my credibility.
 - *I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified. Vs. 27*
 - Ephesians 5:3 NIV, Romans 14:13

STEP 3 GO THROUGH THE CHECKLIST

- Create an engaging title for the outline.** Use the Big Idea to generate a phrase that forms a question or addresses a relevant issue. Something that would cause people to

want to know more. The title determines how you word and shape the following points.

- ❑ **Link the ideas.** The Big Idea, a Supporting Ideas, and a Defining Ideas should form one complete sentence. Tie them together by adding words that create one sentence. For instance, "The truth about God..."(Big Idea), "...is that He is righteous..." (Supporting Idea), "which means he is the judge of all mankind" (Defining Idea).
- ❑ **Explain, Illustrate and Apply the Defining ideas.** An explanation consists of a few well-worded statements that provide understanding and produce clarity. ([Nehemiah 8:8](#)) An illustration is an example, and comes from sources such as Scripture or everyday life. Limit what you say about yourself, and maximize what you say about God. Avoid repetitive stories about your family. The application should direct the listener to know, do, or feel something.
- ❑ **Or ask a question, and share answers about the Defining Ideas.** This is a great way to deepen the thought about crucial words and phrases. For instance, "Here are three reasons why this is so important." Sharing answers to a key question accelerates maturity.
- ❑ **Maximize the Defining Ideas.** Most of the commentary work should occur at the level of Defining ideas, not the Big Idea or Supporting Ideas. A simple message will contain many points. Spending too much time talking the major points creates information overload when talking about the Defining points. Defining points often yield more product information. Spend most of your time talking about the smaller fish, and only what is necessary about the Big and Medium fish.
- ❑ **Personalize the outline.** Construct statements in an inclusive manner by using the terms us and we. Statements without pronouns are impersonal and academic. The term "you" can distance the speaker from the audience.
- ❑ **Consult resources to aid comprehension of the passage.** Now is the time to look at other translations, commentaries, language tools, dictionary, encyclopedia, etc. This may result in modifying or changing some of the terms in the outline.
- ❑ **Conclude the message by summarizing a few key points.** End with a "So let's..." phrase that highlights a few key thoughts from the message. These are thoughts you emphasized. Reword them for freshness.
- ❑ Look over sample Big Ideas Studies: [James 1:1-12](#), [Colossians 1:15-20](#), [1 Peter 4:7-19](#), [Romans 8:26-30](#)
- ❑ Review additional resources?
 - Watch [Keep Looking](#) (2:56)
 - View [Transforming Teaching](#)

