



# A Christian Sermon Guide for Mainstreaming Nigeria's Violence Against Persons Prohibition Law into Faith Teachings

**Ipas** Partners for  
Reproductive Justice  
NIGERIA HEALTH  
FOUNDATION

# Table Of Content

Acknowledgment	03
Introduction:	04
Sermon 1: Rape	05
Sermon 2: Incest	07
Sermon 3: Inflicting Physical Injury	09
Sermon 4: Placing a Person in Fear of Physical Injury	11
Sermon 5: Offensive Conduct	14
Sermon 6: Harmful Traditional Practice	16
Sermon 7: Frustrating Investigation	18
Sermon 8: Wilfully Making False Statement	20
Sermon 9: Forceful Ejection from Home	22
Sermon 10: Deprivation of Liberty:	24
Sermon 11: Damage to Property with intent to cause distress	26
Sermon 12: Forced Financial Dependence or Economic Abuse	28
Sermon 13: Forced and Unjustified Isolation or Separation from Family and Friends	30
Sermon 14: Emotional, Verbal and Psychological Abuse	32
Sermon 15: Abandonment of Family without Sustenance	35
Sermon 16: Stalking	37
Sermon 17: Intimidation of a person	39
Sermon 18: Spousal Battery	41
Sermon 19: Substance Attack	44
Sermon 20: Administering a Substance with Intent	46
Sermon 21: Indecent Exposure	48
Sermon 22: Political Violence	51
General Note on Delivering Sermon on the Using the Guider	53
Appreciation	55

# Acknowledgment

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I wish to especially acknowledge the effort of the Lead Consultant, Mr. Ikenna Nwakama, for his leadership in developing the Sermon Note with key Religious leaders and Faith-Based Institutions in Nigeria. I must also acknowledge the support of the leadership of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) for their contributions and support during the brainstorming sessions and finalization of the Sermon Guide.

Worthy of note is the Community-Based Organization in Gombe State (SAIF Advocacy Foundation) 's contributions to mobilize strategic Religious Leaders in the State to participate in the development and training on the Sermon Guide.

We at Ipas are hopeful that this guide will significantly support ongoing efforts towards changing negative social norms that drive Gender-Based Violence in Nigeria and effectively respond to the needs (SRHR & Psycho-social and Legal support) of survivors of Gender-Based Violence.

Finally, I appreciate my team's tireless efforts in developing the Sermon Guide.

**Lucky Enahoro Palmer**  
Country Director  
Ipas Nigeria Health Foundation

# Background

In Nigeria, a nation renowned for its rich cultural and religious diversity, fostering unity and understanding among its Christian communities is not only essential but a sacred duty. In this spirit of unity and shared responsibility, we present to you a sermon guide deeply rooted in the teachings of Christianity and Islam, carefully woven into the fabric of Nigeria's Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act.

The VAPP Act, enacted in 2015, represents a significant step towards ensuring the safety, dignity, and rights of every individual, regardless of their gender, faith, or social status. It seeks to curb various forms of violence, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, and harmful traditional practices, which have regrettably persisted in our society. Our mission is to empower Christian and Muslim faith leaders with the wisdom and guidance needed to address these pressing issues within the framework of their respective religious traditions and our nation's laws.

In this sermon guide, you will find a harmonious blend of Christian teachings, as we delve into the core values and principles that underpin our faiths. Together, we will explore the profound teachings of love, compassion, and justice that form the bedrock of our religious traditions. By drawing upon these shared values, we hope to bridge the gaps that divide us and unite in our collective commitment to eradicating violence, promoting gender equality, and fostering peaceful coexistence.

Through scriptural references, reflections, and practical guidance, this guide aims to inspire faith leaders to become beacons of hope and catalysts for positive change within their congregations and communities. It is our sincere belief that when Christians come together to address the issues addressed by the VAPP Act, we not only fulfill our religious duties but also contribute to the greater good of our beloved Nigeria.

May this guide serve as a testament to our shared commitment to peace, justice, and love, and may it guide us as we work hand in hand to create a more harmonious and compassionate society for all.

# Sermon 1: Rape



Sexual intercourse by a man to his wife is not rape (if the wife is mature). A man convicted of rape will be sent to prison for life and he will be castrated by removing his testicles. A woman convicted of rape will be sent to prison for life and her fallopian tube will be removed. Where the offender is less than 14 years old he or she will be locked in a place approved by law for a minimum of 14 years.

## The Sermon Guide

### Introduction

Begin with a moment of silence to acknowledge the seriousness of the topic.

Emphasize the importance of addressing sensitive issues like rape within a faith community and highlight the need for compassion, understanding, and healing for survivors. Acknowledge the sensitive nature of the topic and the importance of discussing it within a biblical context. Emphasize that God's Word provides guidance on all aspects of life, including addressing difficult subjects like rape.

### Sub-themes

#### **1.1 Understanding Rape in Light of Scripture A. Defining Rape:**

Explain what rape is, emphasizing its nature as a violent act of power and control. - Highlight the physical, emotional, and spiritual trauma it inflicts on victims.

## Summary of the Law

The offence of rape is committed where a person intentionally penetrates the vagina, anus or mouth of another with any part of his or her body or with anything else and the penetration was made:

- Against the will of the victim
- Without consent of the victim
- The consent was obtained by force, or threat, because of fear of death or fear of injury;
- By means of false and fraudulent representation of the act to be committed;
- By use of intoxicating substance that will take away the sense of the victim;
- By impersonation and claiming to be the husband or wife of the victim;
- With or without consent where the victim is under 16 years or mentally sick

Where a group of people committed rape each of the offenders will be sent to prison for life and removal of his testicles if male or her fallopian tube if female. A register of convicted sexual offenders must be kept by the VAPP Management Committee and be made accessible to the public. The picture, name and other personal details of the offender will be displayed in a public place in the headquarters of the local government he is living and will also be displayed in other places

## **1.2 Share Biblical Perspective on Human Dignity**

Cite Genesis 1:27 - *"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."* –

Discuss how every human being is created in the image of God, deserving of respect, dignity, and protection.

## **1.3 Biblical Condemnation of Rape**

Tell the Story of Tamar and Amnon (2 Samuel 13): - Narrate the story of Tamar's rape by her half-brother Amnon. - Discuss the consequences of Amnon's sin and the pain it brought to Tamar and her family. - Emphasize that God's Word does not shy away from addressing the reality of such sins.

Also, make reference to Deuteronomy 22:25-27, which expresses God's abhorrence of such acts. Explain that the Bible's stance against rape aligns with God's desire for justice, compassion, and protection of the vulnerable.

## **1.4 Responding as a Faith Community**

Make reference to Isaiah 1:17 - *"Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed."*

Emphasize the responsibility of the faith community to create a safe environment where survivors can find solace, support, and protection. Discuss the importance of addressing the actions of perpetrators and seeking justice while also praying for their transformation.

Share stories of healing and restoration, emphasizing that there is hope for survivors to find wholeness and purpose despite their past experiences

## **Ending with a Summary**

- Summarize the key points discussed during the sermon.
- Remind the congregation of God's love, compassion, and desire for justice.
- Encourage everyone to be a part of the solution by fostering a safe and supportive community that reflects God's heart for healing and restoration

# Sermon 2: Incest

## Summary of the Law

A person that intentionally had sexual intercourse with a relative within the prohibited degrees of relationship (e.g father, mother, daughter, son, mother-in-law, father-in-law, step daughter, step-son, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, etc.) with or without consent, will be sent to prison for a minimum period of 10 years without the option of fine.

Where two relatives mutually consent to have sexual intercourse (provided the consent was not obtained by fraud or threat) each will be sent to prison for 5 years without the option of a fine



## The Sermon Guide

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### Introduction

Welcome the congregation and set a tone of reverence and respect.

Express the importance of discussing sensitive topics in light of God's Word.

Emphasize the significance of upholding God's design for healthy relationships within families

### Sub-themes

#### 2.1 Understanding Incest

Define incest as sexual relationships or marriage between close relatives, contrary to God's design. Highlight the potential physical, emotional, and spiritual consequences of incest, including the disruption of family dynamics and damage to individual well-being.

#### 2.2 Understanding God's Design for Family Relationships

Explain that God established the family unit with specific emphasis on where one should not marry.

Cite Genesis 2:24: *"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."*

Explain how this verse establishes the principle of leaving and cleaving, underscoring the importance of new family relationships distinct from parent-child relationships.

Also, cite Leviticus 18:6-18, where God provides a list of prohibited relationships, emphasizing the boundaries He has set to protect the sanctity of family ties.

<sup>6</sup> *"No one is to approach any close relative to have sexual relations. I am the LORD.*

<sup>7</sup> *"Do not dishonor your father by having sexual relations with your mother. She is your mother; do not have relations with her.*

- <sup>8</sup> *“Do not have sexual relations with your father’s wife; that would dishonor your father.*
- <sup>9</sup> *“Do not have sexual relations with your sister, either your father’s daughter or your mother’s daughter, whether she was born in the same home or elsewhere.*
- <sup>10</sup> *“Do not have sexual relations with your son’s daughter or your daughter’s daughter; that would dishonor you.*
- <sup>11</sup> *“Do not have sexual relations with the daughter of your father’s wife, born to your father; she is your sister.*
- <sup>12</sup> *“Do not have sexual relations with your father’s sister; she is your father’s close relative.*
- <sup>13</sup> *“Do not have sexual relations with your mother’s sister, because she is your mother’s close relative.*
- <sup>14</sup> *“Do not dishonor your father’s brother by approaching his wife to have sexual relations; she is your aunt.*
- <sup>15</sup> *“Do not have sexual relations with your daughter-in-law. She is your son’s wife; do not have relations with her.*
- <sup>16</sup> *“Do not have sexual relations with your brother’s wife; that would dishonor your brother.*
- <sup>17</sup> *“Do not have sexual relations with both a woman and her daughter. Do not have sexual relations with either her son’s daughter or her daughter’s daughter; they are her close relatives. That is wickedness.*
- <sup>18</sup> *“Do not take your wife’s sister as a rival wife and have sexual relations with her while your wife is living.*

### **2.3 Consequences of Incest: A. Distorted Relationships**

Cite Deuteronomy 27:22 - *“Cursed is anyone who sleeps with his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother”*

- Discuss the negative effects of incest on family dynamics, trust, and emotional well-being. Reference the story of Amnon and Tamar in **2 Samuel 13** as an example of the devastating consequences of incestuous desires
- Make reference to Genesis 19:30-38 - The Story of Lot's Daughters. Narrate the account of Lot's daughters and the consequences of their actions.

### **Ending with a Summary**

Summarise the key points you made. Remind the faithful that the Bible is their guide in all matters of life, and it unequivocally prohibits incestuous relationships. Remind them that God’s wisdom in setting these boundaries is to safeguard the purity, dignity, and well-being of our families. Call on them to honor the teachings by maintaining the sanctity of their family relationships, upholding morality, and fostering a strong sense of responsibility toward Christian families.



# Sermon 3: Inflicting Physical Injury



## Summary of the Law

A person that intentionally causes or inflicts physical injury on another with a weapon, a substance or any other object will be sent to prison for up to 5 years or pay a fine of up to N500, 000 or both

## The Sermon Guide

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### Introduction

#### Opening Prayer

Begin with a warm greeting, acknowledging the importance of addressing relevant issues that impact the well-being of individuals and communities. Express the Church's commitment to promoting physical, emotional, and spiritual health among its members. Emphasize the role of Christian leaders in providing guidance, support, and education on issues affecting the spiritual and physical need of the believers. .

### 3.1 Understanding the Christian Ethic of Non-Injury

- Explain the non-injury stance of the Church
- Explain Why is important in the Christian faith?

### 3.2 The Biblical Basis for Non-Injury

- Cite Matthew 22:37-39: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind... Love your neighbor as yourself." - Explain how these verses summarize the core teachings of Jesus.
- Refer to the Golden Rule - Read Matthew 7:12: "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you." - Discuss how this principle guides our actions towards others.

### **3.3 The Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ**

- Remind the congregants that Jesus is the ultimate example of non-injury virtues preached in Christianity
- Remind them of the teaching of Jesus's forgiveness - His crucifixion as an act of ultimate forgiveness. Remind them of how Jesus responded to aggression (Matthew 26:51-53). Peter attempted to defend Jesus, but Jesus cautioned him on the consequences of inflicting injury or killing someone.

### **3.4 Practical Application**

Offer practical advice on how congregants can live out the principles of love and protection in their daily lives:

- Resolve conflicts peacefully.
- Seek reconciliation and restoration.
- Support organizations and initiatives that promote non-violence and the well-being of others.
- Encourage congregants to pray for the strength and wisdom to live out these principles in their interactions with others.

### **Ending with a Summary**

- Summarize the key points of the sermon.
- Reiterate the importance of love, compassion, and non-violence in the Christian faith.
- Challenge the congregation to examine their own lives and commit to treating others with kindness and respect, refraining from inflicting physical harm.
- Close with a prayer for peace, healing, and the strength to live out the teachings of Christ in our daily lives.

# Sermon 4: Placing a Person in Fear of Physical Injury



## Summary of the Law

A person who intentionally places another in fear of physical injury will be sent to prison for up to 2 years or pay a fine of up to N200, 000 or both

## The Sermon Guide

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### Introduction

Welcome and opening prayer.

- Start with a personal story or recent news event highlighting the prevalence of threats and fear in today's world.
- Explain the importance of addressing this issue from a biblical perspective.

### Sub-themes

#### 4.1 Recognizing the Sin of Threats and Fear

- Define what constitutes uttering threats and creating fear of physical injury.
- Discuss how such behavior contradicts God's command to love one another in Matthew 22:39 –“... And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Emphasize the need for Christians to be aware of their own actions and words in this context.

- Discuss the destructive effects of issuing threats.: James 3:6 (NIV) - "*The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.*"

Explain that this verse illustrates the potential for harm that the tongue can cause when it is used to threaten, deceive, or speak untruths, emphasizing the importance of using words wisely

#### 4.2 Biblical Teaching on Words and Speech

- Cite Colossians 3:8 (NIV): "*But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.*"

Use this verse to emphasize the importance of responding to others with love, gentleness, and a spirit of reconciliation rather than resorting to threats or violence.

- Read Proverbs 18:21 (NIV): *"The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit."*

Highlight the significance of our words and the impact they can have on others. Share examples from the Bible where words were used to incite fear or violence.

forceful isolation of any of the partners is leaves the other open and vulnerable.

- Reference Surah Al-Ahqaf (Chapter 46), Verse 15: *"And We have enjoined upon man [care] for his parents. His mother carried him, [increasing her] in weakness upon weakness, and his weaning is in two years. Be grateful to Me and to your parents; to Me is the [final] destination."*

Explain that his verse emphasizes the design of God, in which every member of the family has a role to ensure fullness of life, highlighting the importance of unbroken family relationships

### **4.3 Responding with Grace and Nonviolence**

- Read Matthew 5:38-39 (NIV): *"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also."*

Discuss Jesus' call to respond to hostility with grace and nonviolence. Share stories of individuals who chose peaceful responses to threats and violence.

- Cite Proverbs 15:1 - *"A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger"*. This verse highlights the importance of responding to threats or conflicts with gentleness and kindness, as harsh words can escalate problems in relationships. You can give personal experience when you calmed a tense situation with calmness

### **4.4 Reporting Threats and Seeking Protection**

- Cite Proverbs 31:8-9: *"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."*

This verse underscores the duty to advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves.

- Read Psalm 82:3-4 (NIV): *"Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."*

This verse emphasizes the importance of defending and rescuing those who are vulnerable.

- Reference Ephesians 5:11 (NIV): *"Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them."*

This verse encourages believers to expose or bring to light deeds of darkness, which could be interpreted as a call to whistleblowing against harmful actions

## **4.5 Rejecting the Culture of Threats**

- Cite Ephesians 4:29 (NIV): "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

Emphasize the importance of our words and the need to reject threatening language. Encourage a culture of kindness, encouragement, and building one another up.

## **Ending with a Summary**

Summarize the main points of the sermon.

- Reiterate the call to respond to threats and fear with grace, nonviolence, and faith.
- Invite the congregation to seek support and guidance if they encounter threats or situations involving fear of physical injury.
- Offer a closing prayer for wisdom, courage, and God's protection in challenging situations.

# Sermon 5: Offensive Conduct



## Summary of the Law

A Person that compels another by force or threat to do any activity or conduct that affects the victim's physical or psychological well-being will be sent to prison for up to 3 years or pay a fine of up to N300,000 or both

## The Sermon Guide

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### Introduction

Welcome the congregation and set the tone for the sermon by emphasizing the importance of love, respect, and kindness in our lives as Christians.

Explain that today's sermon will focus on how we can avoid leading people into offensive and abusive actions by following the teachings of Jesus Christ

### Sub-themes

#### **5.1 The Commandment of Love and Harmony:**

- Read aloud Mark 12:30-31: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."*

Emphasize the foundational importance of love in Christianity. Loving God and loving our neighbor are the two greatest commandments.

Cite these verses:

Philippians 2:2-3: *"then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves."*

Galatians 5:22-23: *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."*

These verses stress the importance of living in harmony, unity, and love within the community of believers, as well as valuing each other and working together for peace and common goals.

## **5.2 Biblical Reprimand of Offensive and Abusive Actions**

- *Cite Proverbs 18:21 (NIV):*

*"The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit."*

Explain that this verse highlights the power of words and how they can bring life or death. Being offensive with our words can lead to negative consequences.

- *Reference Matthew 5:21-22 (NIV) (Words of Jesus):*

*"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell."*

Remind the congregants that Jesus emphasizes that not only physical murder but also offensive words and name-calling can have serious consequences.

- *Read Ephesians 4:29 (NIV):*

*"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."*

Emphasize that this verse encourages believers to speak words that edify and benefit others rather than offensive or harmful speech.

- *Remind the congregants of Colossians 3:8:*

*"But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips."*

Explain that here, believers are instructed to avoid slander and offensive language.

## **Ending with a Summary**

- Summarize the key points of the sermon, emphasizing the importance of love, kindness, and following Christ's example.
- Encourage the congregation to go forth and live their lives in a way that leads others toward love and not into offensive or abusive actions.
- Offer a closing prayer, asking for God's grace to help us walk in love and avoid causing harm to others.

# Sermon 6: Harmful Traditional Practices



## Summary of the Law

A person who carries out harmful traditional practices on another (e.g. harmful widowhood practices, female genital mutilation (FGM) or circumcision, forced marriage etc.) will be sent to prison for up to 4 years or pay a fine of up to N400, 000 or both

## The Sermon Guide

### Introduction

- Welcome the congregation and set a warm and inviting tone.
- Explain the purpose of the sermon: to shed light on erroneous and harmful traditional practices in light of God's Word.
- Share a personal anecdote or relevant story that connects with the topic.
- Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17: *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

### Sub-themes

#### 6.1 Understanding the Power of Tradition

- Share personal or relevant anecdotes.
- Emphasize the role of tradition in shaping our beliefs and actions.
- Mention that not all traditions are negative, but we must discern.
- Define what constitutes harmful traditions.
- Encourage self-reflection and congregational reflection

#### 6.2 The Danger of Blindly Following Tradition

- Read Mark 7:8-9: *"You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions."*

Explain how following traditions without questioning them can lead us away from God's truth.. Share stories or anecdotes of individuals who have been negatively impacted by harmful traditions.



- Read Romans 12:2: *"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

Emphasize the need for transformation through the renewing of our minds. Encourage the congregation to seek God's truth and guidance above all else.

### **6.3 Breaking Free from Harmful Traditions**

- Read Galatians 5:1: *"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."*

Encourage the congregation to courageously break free from harmful traditions. Offer guidance on how to do so, including dialogue, education, and reliance on the Holy Spirit.

- Read John 14:6: *"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"*

Remind the congregation that Jesus is the ultimate truth. Share the joy and freedom that come from embracing God's truth in our lives.

### **Ending with a Summary**

- Recap the key points of the sermon.
- Invite the congregation to reflect on their own traditions.
- Offer a prayer for guidance in discerning and breaking free from harmful traditions

# Sermon 7: Frustrating Investigation



## Summary of the Law

A person that intends to hide an offence or frustrate the investigation or prosecution of an offender, destroys, alters, mutilates or falsifies any book, document or other item or omits or participate in omitting any important thing from any document, book or other item that will be used as evidence in court, will be sent to prison for up to 3 years or pay a fine of up to N300, 000 or both

## The Sermon Guide

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### Introduction

- Welcome and opening prayer.
- Briefly introduce the topic of obstructing justice and its relevance in our lives today.
- Emphasize the importance of seeking justice in the eyes of God.

### Sub-themes

#### 7.1 The Biblical Call to Seek Justice

- Cite Deuteronomy 16:20 - *"Justice, and only justice, you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land that the Lord your God is giving you."*

Emphasize that God's command is clear about seeking justice.

- Reference Micah 6:8 - *"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"*

Explain the connection between justice, kindness, and humility.

- Cite Isaiah 1:17 - *"Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause."*

Highlight that Christians are saddled with the responsibility to correct oppression and help the vulnerable.

## **7.2 The Sin and Consequences of Obstructing Justice**

- Cite Proverbs 17:15 - *"He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the Lord."*

Explain that this verse highlights the sin of perverting justice by condemning the innocent or letting the guilty go free.

- Reference Proverbs 18:5: *"It is not good to be partial to the wicked and so deprive the innocent of justice."*

This verse speaks against showing favoritism to the wicked, which can obstruct justice for the innocent.

- Cite Isaiah 59:14: *"So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter."*

Explain that this verse portrays a society where justice is obstructed, and truth and honesty are compromised.

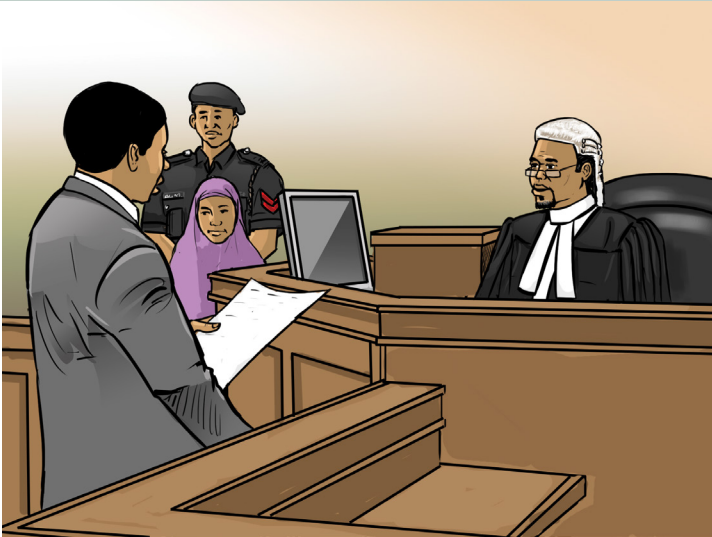
- Cite Amos 5:15: *"Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the Lord God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph."*

Explains that this verse calls for the maintenance of justice in the courts, implying that obstructing justice is against God's will.

## **Ending with a Summary**

- Recap the main points discussed
- Emphasize that justice is the cornerstone of a just and peaceful society.

# Sermon 8: Willfully Making False Statement



## Summary of the Law

A person who intentionally makes false statement orally or in writing as part of any judicial process under this law or makes the false statement purposely to start criminal investigation or proceedings under this law against another person will be sent to prison for up to 1 year or pay a fine of up to N100,000

## The Sermon Guide

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### Introduction

- Begin with a warm greeting and a prayer for guidance and wisdom.
- Share a personal anecdote or story that highlights the importance of truth in our lives.

Explain the purpose of the sermon: to reflect on the sin of bearing false witness and the significance of truth in Christian living

### Sub-themes

#### **8.1 The Biblical Position on Truth**

- Read Exodus 20:16 (The Ninth Commandment) - *"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."*

Discuss this Commandment as the moral foundation for Christian ethics and emphasize the seriousness of lying as a sin in God's eyes.

- Cite Proverbs 12:22 - *"Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight."*

Emphasize the divine disapproval of falsehood and highlight the centrality of truth in Jesus' teachings.

- Cite Proverbs 6:16-19 (NIV) - *"There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood..."*

Explain that lying is one of the things detested by the Lord.

## **8.2 The Consequences of Bearing False Witness**

- Read Exodus 20:16 (The Ninth Commandment) - *"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."*

Discuss this Commandment as the moral foundation for Christian ethics and emphasize the seriousness of lying as a sin in God's eyes.

- Cite Proverbs 12:22 - *"Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight."*

Emphasize the divine disapproval of falsehood and highlight the centrality of truth in Jesus' teachings.

- Cite Proverbs 6:16-19 (NIV) - *"There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood..."*

Explain that lying is one of the things detested by the Lord.

### **Ending with a Summary**

- Recap the importance of truthfulness in the Christian walk
- Encourage self-reflection and repentance for any past falsehoods.
- Offer a prayer for God's guidance in speaking the truth and avoiding false statements.
- End with an invitation for anyone who needs to confess and seek forgiveness for bearing false witness to do so.

# Sermon 9: Forceful Ejection from Home



## Summary of the Law

A person who by the use of force evicts his wife or her husband from home or refuses his wife or her husband entry into the home without good reason will be sent to prison for up to 2 years or pay a fine of up to N200, 000 or both

## The Sermon Guide

### Introduction

Begin with a warm welcome and a brief overview of the sermon. Highlight the importance of home and family in the Christian faith. Explain that today's sermon will focus on the biblical perspective on forceful ejection from one's home.

### Sub-themes

#### 9.1 The Importance of Home and Shelter

- Reference to biblical examples of homes as places of refuge.
- Emphasize the significance of family and the sense of security that a home provides.
- Share personal anecdotes or stories that illustrate the importance of home.

#### 9.2 The Biblical Perspective on Forceful Ejection

- Read and emphasize the following Bible verses: 1. Exodus 22:25-27 - *"If you lend money to any of my people with you who is poor, you shall not be like a moneylender to him, and you shall not exact interest from him. If ever you take your neighbor's cloak in pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down, for that is his only covering, and it is his cloak for his body; in what else shall he sleep? And if he cries to me, I will hear, for I am compassionate."*

Discuss the biblical principle of compassion and empathy for those in need and God's bias in favour of those that are victimized. Share stories or examples from the Bible where God provided shelter and protection to those who were in dire situations.

Cite James 2:14-16 (NIV): *"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and*

*daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?"*

Remind the congregants that this verse emphasizes the importance of helping those in need, including providing shelter and support to the homeless.

### **9.3 God's Warning Against Actions like Forceful Ejection**

- Reference Proverbs 3:33: *"The Lord's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the dwelling of the righteous."*

- Cite Isaiah 58:7: *"Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?"*

Highlight the importance of the church community's role in providing temporary shelter and assistance to those in need.

Also reference the following:

- Colossians 3:12-13: Proverbs 14:21: *"Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor."*

- Proverbs 21:13: *"Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered."*

- Ephesians 4:31-32: *"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."*

- Proverbs 14:21: *"Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor."*

- Proverbs 21:13: *"Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered."*

### **Ending with a Summary**

- Summarize the key points from the sermon.

- Encourage the congregation to reflect on their responsibilities as Christians in the face of forceful ejection.

- Remind the congregation of the importance of compassion, empathy, and relying on God as our ultimate shelter.

- Offer a closing prayer, asking for God's guidance and strength in showing compassion, love, and justice to those in need.

# Sermon 10: Deprivation of Liberty



## Summary of the Law

A person who deprives another of his or her liberty (except by a court order) will be sent to prison for up to 2 years or pay a fine of up to N200,000 or both

## The Sermon Guide

### Introduction

- Begin with a warm greeting and an opening prayer.
- Share a brief personal story or anecdote that relates to the theme of liberty.
- Introduce the importance of liberty in the Christian faith and the biblical perspective on freedom.

### Sub-themes

#### 10.1 God's Heart Against Infringement of Liberty

- Read and reflect on Galatians 5:1: *"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."*

Discuss how God has granted us the gift of liberty, both in our spiritual lives and as human beings. Emphasize that liberty is a fundamental part of God's plan for His people.

- Read and reflect on John 8:36: *"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."*  
Discuss how Jesus Christ is the ultimate source of liberation from all forms of bondage. Share testimonies or stories of individuals who have experienced freedom and transformation through their faith in Christ.

- Cite Psalm 103:6: *"The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed."*  
Highlight how God's justice system operates, emphasizing His love for justice and mercy.

- Refer to Luke 4:18-19 (NIV): *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free."*

Emphasize the importance of Jesus' liberation plan and compassion in our own lives and why all Christians must align with the liberation agenda of Christ



## **10.2 The Dangers of Deprivation of Liberty and Reward of Oppression**

- Read and reflect on Proverbs 22:7: *"The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender."*

Explain how various forms of deprivation of liberty can occur in our lives, such as financial bondage, addiction, or oppressive systems. Share personal or real-life examples of people who have experienced deprivation of liberty and its consequences.

Cite these verses emphasize the importance of treating others with kindness and justice, warning against oppression and the consequences it may bring, both in this life and in the sight of God.

*Proverbs 22:16: "One who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth and one who gives gifts to the rich—both come to poverty."*

Isaiah 10:1-2:

*"Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless."*

Exodus 22:21-24:

*"Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt. Do not take advantage of the widow or the fatherless. If you do and they cry out to me, I will certainly hear their cry. My anger will be aroused, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives will become widows and your children fatherless."*

Reference Isaiah 58:6-7:

*"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?"*

Emphasize the desire of God in intervention and support for those who are oppressed, suffering, or in bondage, and the call to work towards liberation and justice.

### **Ending with a Summary**

- Summarize the key points of the sermon.
- Reiterate the importance of liberty as a gift from God.
- Call for a moment of reflection and prayer, inviting those who may be struggling with deprivation of liberty to seek God's help.
- Remind those that are infringing on people's liberty about the wrath of God.

# Sermon 11: Damage to Property with Intent to Cause Distress



## Summary of the Law

A person that destroys or damages the property of another person with the intention to cause disturbance or annoyance to the victim will be sent to prison for up to 2 years or pay a fine of up to N200,000 or both

## The Sermon Guide

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### Introduction

- Begin with a warm welcome and a brief explanation of the sermon's focus.
- Share a personal anecdote or a relevant story to capture the congregation's attention.
- Emphasize the importance of respecting what God has provided as a blessing to mankind, which includes the properties of others.

### Sub-themes

#### 11.1 Understanding Damage to Property with Intent to Cause Distress

- Define the act of damaging property with malicious intent.
- Discuss the various forms of property damage that occur in our society today.
- Highlight the emotional and financial distress it can cause to individuals and communities

#### 11.2 Biblical Perspective on Property and Stewardship

- Read and expound upon Genesis 1:26-28, where God gives humanity dominion over the earth. - Emphasize the responsibility to care for and steward God's creation and provisions.
- Explore Psalm 24:1, emphasizing that **"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."** Discuss how this verse underlines God's ownership of all property.

### **11.3 The Consequences of Damaging Property with Intent to Cause Distress**

- Share real-life examples of how property damage can lead to emotional pain and suffering.
- Discuss the legal consequences of damaging property and the impact it can have on one's own life
- Explore the spiritual consequences of Wicked Actions
- Cite Proverbs 6:16-19: *"There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community."*

Explain that this passage points to seven things that are detestable to the Lord and one of them is "a heart that devises wicked schemes." Wicked intents often involve plotting and carrying out schemes that are hurtful and this verse condemns such behavior.

- Reference Proverbs 14:22: *"Do not those who plot evil go astray? But those who plan what is good find love and faithfulness."*

*Explain that this verse contrasts those who plot evil (Wicked intents) with those who plan what is good. It suggests that those who engage in mischief will go astray, while those who plan and pursue goodness will find love and faithfulness.*

- Cite Proverbs 24:2: *"for their hearts plot violence, and their lips talk about making trouble."*

Discuss this verse as highlighting the connection between the intentions of the heart and the actions that follow. Mischief often begins with wicked intentions, as people's hearts plot violence or trouble. It serves as a warning against harboring such thoughts.

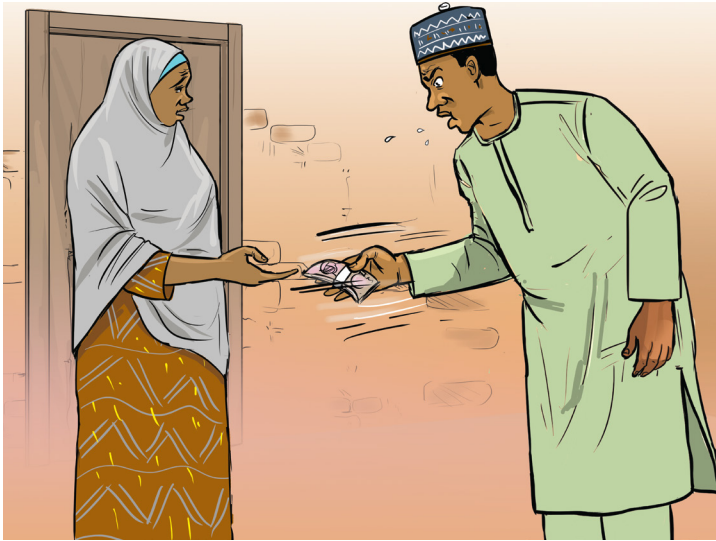
- Cite Proverbs 10:23: *"A fool finds pleasure in wicked schemes, but a person of understanding delights in wisdom."*

Explain that this verse contrasts the mindset of a fool, who takes pleasure in wicked schemes (mischief), with a person of understanding, who finds delight in wisdom. It encourages choosing wisdom over engaging in mischief.

### **Ending with a Summary**

- Summarize the key points of the sermon.
- Invite the congregation to reflect on their own actions and attitudes toward property and their responsibility as stewards of God's creation.
- Offer a closing prayer, asking for God's guidance in respecting property and helping others in distress.

# Sermon 12: Forced Financial Dependence or Economic Abuse



## Summary of the Law

A person that caused forced financial dependence or economic abuse of another (by denial of inheritance or succession rights, unreasonable deprivation of economic or financial resources that a person is entitled to such as household necessities, payment of rent in respect of a shared residence or destruction of other property etc.) will be sent to prison for up to 2 years or pay a fine of up to N200,000 or both.

## The Sermon Guide

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### Introduction

- Welcome the congregants to the day's sermon.
- Inform them of the need to explore a pressing issue that affects many lives – forced financial dependence or economic abuse.

Remind them that the Christian faith calls us to love, care for, and support one another, and in the sermon, you will examine how this principle extends to financial relationships

### Sub-themes

#### **12.1 Understanding Forced Financial Dependence**

- Explain that forced financial dependence occurs when one person manipulates, controls, or abuses another by exploiting their economic vulnerability.
- Give examples as abusive partners, employers, or family members who misuse their financial power.

#### **12.2 The Christian Perspective**

Quote Proverbs 22:16: *"One who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth and one who gives gifts to the rich—both come to poverty."*

Explain that this verse warns against oppressing the poor to accumulate wealth or showing favoritism to the rich. It suggests that both actions can lead to poverty and are not in line with righteous living.

Cite Amos 5:11-12: *"You levy a straw tax on the poor and impose a tax on their grain. Therefore, though you have built stone mansions, you will not live in them; though you have planted lush vineyards, you will not drink their wine."*

Explain that this passage criticizes the exploitation of the poor through unfair taxation and economic policies. It warns that even if the wealthy amass great wealth through such means, they may not ultimately benefit from it.

Reference James 5:1-5: *"Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days."*

Inform the congregants that the Bible admonishes the rich who have accumulated wealth while neglecting the needs of the less fortunate and warns of the impending consequences for those who hoard wealth and exploit others, emphasizing the importance of using one's resources for good.

Cite Isaiah 10:1-2: *"Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless."*

Explain that this passage condemns those who enact laws and policies that perpetuate economic inequality and injustice. It emphasizes the importance of upholding the rights of the poor and oppressed.

### **Ending with a Summary**

- Recap the key points of the sermon
- Remind the faithful that they are called to love one another and protect each other from harm, including financial harm.

# Sermon 13: Forced or Unjustified Isolation or Separation from Family and Friends.



## Summary of the Law

A person that by force and without good reason, isolates or separates another from family and friends (by preventing him or her from leaving the home or having contact with the family and friends or with the outside community) will be sent to prison for up to 6 months or pay a fine of up to N50, 000 or both

## The Sermon Guide

### Introduction

- Welcome and greet the congregation.
- Share a brief personal anecdote or story about the importance of family and community.
- Introduce the theme of the sermon: How the Bible guides us to overcome forces that seek to separate us from our loved ones and community.

### Sub-themes

#### **13.1 The Divine Design of Family and Community**

- Cite Genesis 2:18 *"Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.'"*
- Explain that God created us for companionship and community. He designed family and community as essential components of our lives. Therefore, forceful separation from family and community is working against the design of God. The enemy often seeks to disrupt these bonds, causing division and separation

#### **13.2 Nurturing Community bond as Demanded by God**

- Cite Hebrews 10:24-25 *"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*

Explain that the community is vital for our spiritual growth and support, active participation and support within the church can help us resist the forces of separation.

## **Ending with a Summary**

- Summarize the key points from the sermon.
- Encourage the congregation to reflect on their own relationships with family and community.
- Invite them to pray for unity, strength, and resilience against the forces of separation.

Close with a benediction and a word of encouragement to actively work towards maintaining strong bonds with family and community

# Sermon 14: Emotional, Verbal and Psychological Abuse



## Summary of the Law

A person that puts another to emotional, verbal, or psychological abuse (by repeated insults, ridicule or name-calling, repeated threats to cause emotional pain, a repeated exhibition of obsessive possessiveness, etc.) will be sent to prison for up to 1 year or pay a fine of up to N100,000 or both

## The Sermon Guide

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### Introduction

- Welcome and open in prayer.
- Introduce the topic of emotional violence and its harmful effects on individuals and relationships.
- Emphasize the importance of addressing emotional violence from a Christian perspective.

Remind them that the Christian faith calls us to love, care for, and support one another, and in the sermon, you will examine how this principle extends to financial relationships

### Sub-themes

#### **14.1 Recognizing Emotional/Verbal and Psychological Abuse**

- Define Emotional/Verbal and Psychological Abuse
- Give examples of Emotional/Verbal and Psychological Abuse.
- Explain the impact of Emotional/Verbal and Psychological Abuse

#### **14.2 Biblical Teachings Against Emotional Violence**

Cite Ephesians 4:29 - *"Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear."*

Explain that our words can be used to build up rather than tear down.

- Cite Proverbs 15:1 - *"A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."*

Emphasize the importance of responding to conflict with gentleness.



- Quote Colossians 3:8 - *"But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth."*

Encourage believers to eliminate harmful speech and attitudes from their lives.

- Reference James 3:9-10 - *"With it [the tongue] we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so."*

Highlight the contradiction of praising God and cursing others with the same tongue.

Reference the following verse:

*Ephesians 4:29 (NIV): "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."*

*Proverbs 12:18 (NIV): "The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."*

*Proverbs 15:1 (NIV): "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."*

*Proverbs 16:24 (NIV): "Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones."*

*Colossians 4:6 (NIV): "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."*

*James 3:9-10 (NIV): "With the tongue, we praise our Lord and Father, and with it, we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be."*

*Proverbs 21:23 (NIV): "Those who guard their mouths and their tongues keep themselves from calamity."*

*Psalms 141:3 (NIV): "Set a guard over my mouth, Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips."*

### **14.3 A Guiding Light out of the Sin of Emotional/Verbal and Psychological Abuse**

- Cite Matthew 5:9 - *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."*  
Explain that a true Christians promotes peace and reconciliation.

- Reference Romans 12:18 - *"If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."*

Encourage believers to actively pursue peace in their relationships.

Quote Matthew 18:15 - *"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother."*

Teach the importance of addressing conflicts in a loving and constructive manner

### **14.4 Biblical Warning Against Hurtful Words**

- Quote Matthew 12:36-37 (ESV): *"I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words, you will be condemned."*

Explain that this passage from Jesus underscores the seriousness of our words, suggesting that we will be held accountable for the things we say.

James 3:5-6 (ESV): *"So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell."*

James compares the tongue to a small but destructive fire that can have far-reaching consequences, staining one's whole life with unrighteousness.

### **Ending with a Summary**

- Recap the key points from the sermon.
- Offer a prayer for healing, restoration, and a commitment to living out biblical principles in relationships.
- Invite anyone in need of support to seek help from the church community.

Remember that addressing emotional violence is a sensitive topic, and it's essential to create a safe and supportive environment for those who may be affected. Additionally, encourage open dialogue and the seeking of professional help when necessary

# Sermon 15: Abandonment of Family Without Sustenance



## Summary of the Law

A person who abandons his wife, children, or other dependents without means of livelihood will be sent to prison for up to 3 years or pay a fine of up to N300,000 or both.

## The Sermon Guide

### Introduction

- Welcome and opening prayer
- Emphasize the importance of family in Christian life
- Introduce the topic of abandonment of family without sustenance and provisions

### Sub-themes

#### 15.1 The Biblical Foundation for Providing for Family

- Cite 1 Timothy 5:8 - *"But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."*
- Quote Ephesians 5:25 - *"Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her."*
- Reference Proverbs 13:22 - *"A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous."*

Explain the significance of these verses in emphasizing our responsibility to provide for our families

#### 15.2 The Consequences of Abandoning Family

- Share real-life examples or stories illustrating the impact of family abandonment.
- Discuss the emotional, psychological, and spiritual consequences on family members.
- Highlight how abandonment contradicts Christian values of love, compassion, and responsibility.

Quote Ephesians 6:4:

- *"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."*

Explain that while this verse doesn't explicitly address abandonment, it emphasizes the role of fathers in nurturing and instructing their children. Neglecting this responsibility can have a detrimental impact on the emotional and spiritual development of children.

Cite Matthew 18:6 :

- *"If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea."*

Explain that this verse is a stern warning about causing harm to children or leading them astray. Abandoning or neglecting the responsibilities of raising children can have serious consequences, both in this life and potentially in the hereafter, as it is seen as a grave sin.

### **Ending with a Summary**

- Summarize key points from the sermon.
- Reiterate the biblical call to provide for one's family.
- Offer a closing prayer for strength, wisdom, and grace in fulfilling our responsibilities

# Sermon 16: Stalking



## Summary of the Law

A person that stalks another (by repeatedly watching or loitering outside or near residence, place of work, place of business etc. or by following, pursuing or accosting another in a manner that causes fear, anxiety or discomfort) will be sent to prison for up to 2 years or pay a fine of up to N200,000 or both

## The Sermon Guide

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### Introduction

- Welcome and open with a prayer.
- Introduce the topic of stalking and the importance of addressing it from a Christian perspective.
- Share a brief overview of the sermon's main points

### Sub-themes

#### 16.1 Understanding Stalking

- Explain that forced financial dependence occurs when one person manipulates, controls, or abuses another by exploiting their economic vulnerability.
- Give examples as abusive partners, employers, or family members who misuse their financial power.

#### 16.2 The Sin of Stalking

- Cite Proverbs 10:9 (NIV): "Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out."

This verse highlights the idea that dishonest or deceitful actions will ultimately be exposed.

- Quote Proverbs 16:28 (NIV): "A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends."

- Reference Job 31:1: "I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin?"

Explain that Job expresses his commitment to avoid lusting after women by maintaining self-discipline

Cite 2 Samuel 11:2-4 (ESV): "It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing;

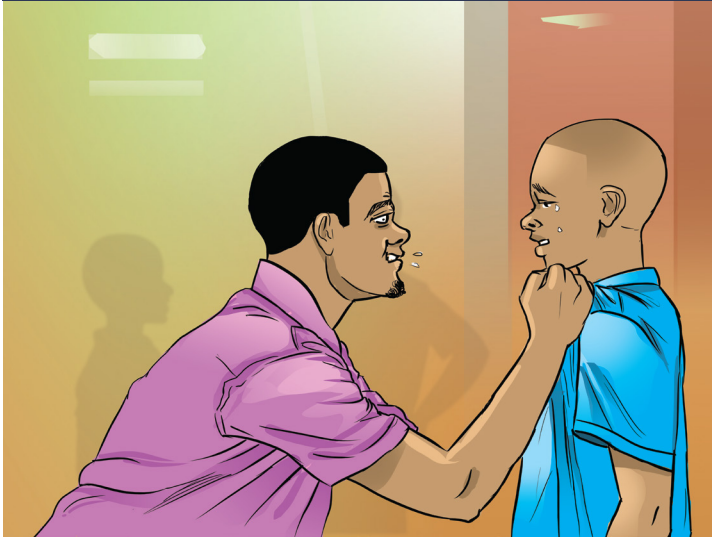
and the woman was very beautiful. And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, 'Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?' So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house."

Explain that this passage recounts King David's sinful actions, which began with him seeing Bathsheba and lusting after her, ultimately leading to adultery and other grave sins. These verses emphasize the importance of guarding one's thoughts and intentions, avoiding lustful desires, and treating others with purity and respect. Spying on someone with lustful intentions would be considered a violation of these principles.

### **Ending with a Summary**

- Summarize the key points of the sermon.
- Remind the congregation of the Christian call to respect, and protect one another. Close with a final prayer and a call to action, urging the congregation to be vigilant against stalking and to extend God's love to all.

# Sermon 17: Intimidation of a Person



## Summary of the Law

A person who intimidates another (by using a threat or conveying a threat that puts the victim in fear, anxiety, or discomfort) will be sent to prison for up to 1 year or pay a fine of up to N100,000 or both

## The Sermon Guide

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### Introduction

The Consequences of Intimidation: A Biblical Perspective

- Welcome and open in prayer.
- Introduce the topic of intimidation and its relevance in our lives today.
- Emphasize the importance of addressing intimidation from a biblical perspective.

### Sub-themes

#### 17.1 Biblical Warnings Against Intimidation

Bible contains several verses that warn against intimidating or oppressing others. Here are a few passages that emphasize the importance of treating others with kindness, respect, and fairness: Exodus 22:21: "Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt."

Proverbs 14:2: "It is a sin to despise one's neighbor, but blessed is the one who is kind to the needy."

Proverbs 22:22-23: "Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court, for the Lord will take up their case and will exact life for life."

Matthew 7:12: "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

Colossians 3:19-21: "Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged."

James 2:8-9 (NIV): "If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbor as yourself,' you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers."

These verses emphasize the importance of treating others with compassion, love, and fairness, and they serve as a warning against intimidating or mistreating others. It's important to remember that the Bible teaches encouragement.

## **17.2 The Consequences of Intimidation**

- **Personal Consequences:** - Discuss the emotional, mental, and spiritual toll that intimidation takes on individuals. - Share personal anecdotes or stories of those who have been affected by intimidation.
- **Societal Consequences:** - Talk about how intimidation can perpetuate a cycle of fear and silence in communities. - Explain how it can hinder progress and justice.

### **Ending with a Summary**

- Summarize the key points.
- Reiterate that intimidation has no place in the lives of those who trust in the Lord.
- Call for a commitment to confront intimidation with faith, courage, and love.
- Close with a prayer for strength and protection against intimidation.



# Sermon 18: Spousal Battery



## Summary of the Law

A husband that beats his wife or wife that beats her husband will be sent to prison for up to 3 years or pay a fine of up to N300, 000 or both

## The Sermon Guide

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Breaking Chains of Spousal Battery - A Christian Sermon Guide

### Preamble

Start by welcoming the faithful and for an opportunity to address a pressing issue that plagues society—Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Remind the congregants that as Christians, it is their responsibility to be a light that guides humanity towards a path of love, compassion, and justice. Invite them to an exploration of biblical verses that emphasize the value of every human life, the importance of healthy relationships, and the condemnation of violence in any form.

### Sub-themes

#### 18.1 Understanding Spousal Battery in Light of God's Word

- Reference Genesis 1:27 - Remind the congregation that each person is created in God's image, regardless of gender. This divine image should be the foundation of our respect for one another, treating each person with love, dignity, and equality.
- Genesis 2:18 - Emphasize the importance of mutual respect and support in relationships, as God created Eve as a "helper suitable" for Adam, indicating partnership and equality.
- Ephesians 5:25 - Explain that husbands are called to love their wives as Christ loved the Church, demonstrating sacrificial love and honoring their spouses rather than dominating or abusing them.

## **18.2 Consequences of Spousal Battery**

- Psalm 11:5 - Share the truth that God hates violence and those who do violence to others. spousal battery goes against God's heart for love, peace, and justice.
- Galatians 6:7 - Explain that those who perpetrate violence will reap its consequences. The cycle of violence not only affects the victims but also the perpetrators themselves and the wider community.

## **18.3 Responding to Spousal Battery**

- 1 John 3:18 - Challenge the congregation to move beyond words and demonstrate love through action. Support and uplift victims of spousal battery by offering resources, counseling, and prayer.
- Isaiah 1:17 - Urge the congregation to actively seek justice by advocating for policies and laws that protect victims, hold perpetrators accountable, and challenge cultural norms that perpetuate violence.
- James 1:19-20 - Encourage open communication and active listening within families and communities. Speak out against spousal battery and break the silence that allows it to thrive.

## **18.4 The Reality of Spousal Battery: Identifying the Problem**

- Define Gender-Based Violence: the physical, sexual, emotional, or psychological harm inflicted on individuals based on their gender.
- Highlight the prevalence of spousal battery globally and its devastating impact on individuals, families, and communities.
- Share statistics and personal stories to illustrate the gravity of the issue.

## **18.5 Confronting Spousal Battery: God's Call to Action**

- Read Micah 6:8: "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."
- Explain that God calls us to actively oppose injustice, including spousal battery, and extend mercy and compassion to survivors.
- Encourage the congregation to be the hands and feet of Christ in combating spousal battery.

## **18.6 Healing and Restoration: God's Promise of Wholeness**

- Read Psalm 147:3: "He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds."
- Share stories of healing and restoration from survivors of spousal battery, emphasizing God's transformative power.
- Highlight the importance of supporting survivors by providing resources, counseling, and a supportive community.

## **18.7 Educating and Empowering: Breaking the Cycle of Spousal Battery**

- Discuss the significance of education and awareness in preventing spousal battery.
- Explore practical ways to educate individuals, families, and communities on healthy relationships and gender equality.
- Promote gender sensitivity and challenge harmful cultural norms that perpetuate violence.

## **18.8 God's Love in Action: The Church's Role**

- Remind the congregation that the church is called to be a safe haven for survivors of spousal battery.
- Encourage the church community to actively support and advocate for survivors, providing them with love, acceptance, and assistance.
- Share examples of ministries and organizations dedicated to addressing spousal battery and encourage congregants to get involved.

## **Ending with a Summary**

- Recap the key points discussed in the sermon.
- Encourage the congregation to reflect on their role in addressing spousal battery and how they can actively support survivors.
- Invite the congregation to pray for the healing and restoration of survivors and commit to taking action against spousal battery.
- End with a closing prayer, asking God to guide and empower us as we strive to bring an end to gender-based violence in our communities

# Sermon 19: Substance Attack



## Summary of the Law

A person that uses any chemical, biological or any other harmful liquid on another will be sent to prison for life and without option of fine

## The Sermon Guide

### Introduction

Challenging the Wickedness of Substance Attack: A Christian Sermon Guide

- Start with a brief explanation of acid/substance attacks and their devastating consequences.
- Highlight the need for the Christian community to address this issue with faith, truth, empathy, and justice.

### Sub-themes

#### 19.1 The Sanctity of Human Life

- Reference Genesis 1:27 "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

Emphasize the intrinsic value and dignity of every human being as created in God's image.

Explain how substance attacks violate this sanctity of life.

- Reference Psalm 139:13-16: "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."

Explain that this Psalm succinctly expresses the fact that God is responsible for the creation of each human life. It emphasizes that God knows and cares for us even before we are born, emphasizing the value and sanctity of life from conception.

- Reference Proverbs 3:29: "Do not plot harm against your neighbor, who lives trustfully near you."

Explain that this verse emphasizes the importance of living peacefully, refraining from harming others, and promoting love and kindness

## **19.2 Biblical Warnings Against Wicked Actions Like Substance Attack**

- Reference Genesis 9:6: "Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind."

Explain that this verse emphasizes the divine origin and value of human life. It teaches that humans are created in the image of God, and taking a human life is a serious offense, punishable by death in this context.

- Cite Genesis 9:5-6 (NIV): "And for your lifeblood, I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being. Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind."

Explain that this verse underscores the sacredness of human life by emphasizing that humanity is created in the image of God. It also establishes a moral imperative for not taking another person's life, with the consequence of punishment for those who do.

- Cite 1 John 3:15 (NIV): "Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him."

Explain that this verse equates harboring hatred or ill-will towards another person with murder. It emphasizes the spiritual and moral consequences of such attitudes

## **19.3 Taking Action as People of Faith**

- Reference Proverbs 31:8-9 "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."
- Encourage the congregation to raise awareness about substance attacks.

## **Ending with a Summary**

- Summarize the key points of the sermon.
- Call for the congregation to take action, showing love, compassion, and a commitment to justice in addressing the issue of substance attacks.
- Conclude the sermon with a prayer for healing, justice, and an end to violence against vulnerable individuals.

# Sermon 20: Administering a Substance with Intent



## Summary of the Law

A person that intentionally gives to another or makes someone give to another anything (e.g. as a drink) that will make the person given lose his sense so as to overpower him or her and commit sexual activity with him or her, the offender will be sent to prison for a minimum of 10 years without option of fine

## The Sermon Guide

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### Introduction

Sermon Guide: Administering a Substance with Intent

- Begin with a warm greeting and a prayer.
- Introduce the topic of administering a substance with harmful intent, emphasizing the importance of ethical behavior and love for one another.
- Emphasize the importance of aligning our actions with God's word and the principles of love and compassion.

### Sub-themes

#### **20.1 Understanding Administering a Substance with Intent**

Define the concept of administering a substance with intent: - This refers to deliberately giving someone a substance (e.g., drugs, alcohol, poison etc.) with harmful intentions, such as causing harm or taking advantage of them. Highlight the seriousness of this act in both legal and moral terms

#### **20.2 The Consequences of Such Actions**

- Read Galatians 6:7: "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap."
- Discuss the consequences individuals may face, both in this life and in the afterlife, for harming others intentionally. Highlight the importance of repentance and seeking forgiveness for such actions.

- Quote 1 Corinthians 3:17 (NIV): - "If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple." – Explain how our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and should not be harmed intentionally.

### **Ending with a Summary**

- Summarize the key points from the sermon.
- Encourage the congregation to live a life guided by love, compassion, and forgiveness.
- Invite anyone involved in harmful actions to seek forgiveness and change their ways.
- Offer a prayer for wisdom, strength, and a heart filled with love and compassion.
- Thank the congregation for their presence and attention.

# Sermon 21: Indecent Exposure



## Summary of the Law

A person that intentionally exposes his or her private parts or a substantial part of the private parts (buttocks, breasts etc. so as to make another see it and be attracted to commit an offence under this law) will be sent to prison for a minimum period of 3 years or pay a fine of up to N300, 000 or both

## The Sermon Guide

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### Introduction - Honoring God's Temple: A Sermon Guide on Indecent Exposure

- Begin with a warm greeting and a prayer for guidance.
- Introduce the topic of indecent exposure and its relevance in today's society.
- Emphasize the importance of treating our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

### Sub-themes

#### 21.1 Understanding Indecent Exposure

- Define indecent exposure in the context of modern society.
- Explain the harmful effects of indecent exposure on individuals and communities.
- Stress the need for modesty and self-respect.

#### 21.2 Biblical Teachings on Modesty

Genesis 3:21 - The first clothing provided by God for Adam and Eve. B. 1 Timothy 2:9-10 - Instructions for women to dress modestly and decently. C. 1 Peter 3:3-4 - The inner beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit.

- Reference 1 Timothy 2:9-10: "I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God." Explain that in this verse, the Apostle Paul advises women to dress modestly and focus on inner qualities and good deeds rather than extravagant outward appearances. The emphasis is on humility and prioritizing one's relationship with God over materialistic displays.
- Quote 1 Peter 3:3-4: "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner



self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight." Explain that similar to the passage in 1 Timothy, this verse highlights the importance of inner beauty and character over outward appearances. It encourages a humble and gentle spirit as the true source of beauty.

- Reference 1 Corinthians 6:19-20: "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies."

Explain that this passage reminds believers that their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and should be treated with respect and modesty. It emphasizes the importance of honoring God through how one presents themselves, including their clothing choices.

### **21.3 Consequences of Indecent Dressing**

- Proverbs 11:22 - "Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion."

Explain that this verse highlights that external beauty without discretion or modesty is like a valuable ring wasted on an inappropriate setting. It teaches us to exercise discretion in our clothing choices.

- Reference Matthew 5:28 : "But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Explain that while this verse doesn't specifically address clothing, it underscores the importance of modesty and purity not only in one's attire but also in one's thoughts and intentions. It reminds believers to avoid dressing in a way that may lead others to lustful or impure thoughts.

- Read Matthew 18:6-7: "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea."

Explain that dressing immodestly can cause others to stumble in their faith.

- Reference Proverbs 31:30 (NIV): "Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised."

Discuss how immodest dressing can affect how others perceive us and our character

### **21.4 Addressing Indecent Exposure**

- Discuss the various forms of indecent exposure that exist today.
- Emphasize that Islam calls for covering the awrah (private parts) and avoiding revealing clothing.
- Remind the congregation of the consequences of indecent exposure in this life and the hereafter.
- Reference Quran 24:30 - "Say to the believing men that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty; that will make for greater purity for them. And Allah is well acquainted with all that they do."

## **Ending with a Summary**

- Summarize the key points of the sermon.
- Reiterate the significance of honoring our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit.
- Invite the congregation to commit to living lives of modesty and self-respect.
- Close with a prayer for God's guidance and strength to uphold these principles in daily life

# Sermon 22: Political Violence



## Summary of the Law

A person that commits political violence (by acts of thuggery, use of force to disrupt meetings or use of dangerous weapons) will be sent to prison for a minimum of 4 years or pay a fine of up to N400,000 or both

## The Sermon Guide

### Christian Reflections on Political Violence: A Call to Peace and Love

- Welcome the congregation and set the tone for the sermon.
- Begin with a brief introduction, emphasizing the importance of addressing political violence through a Christian lens.
- Highlight the need for Christians to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ in their response to political conflicts.
- Emphasize the importance of addressing the issue of political violence from a Christian standpoint.

### Sub-themes

#### **22.1 The Christian Call to Peace**

Reference Matthew 5:9- "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God!"

- Discuss the Christian commitment to peace and reconciliation.
- Emphasize the role of Christians as ambassadors of God's peace in a divided world.

#### **22.2 Understanding Political Violence:**

- Define political violence and provide examples of different forms (e.g., riots, terrorism, civil war).
- Emphasize the impact of political violence on individuals and society.

#### **22.3 Submission to Authorities**

• Reference Romans 13:1-2 (NIV) "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted."

Explain that God has established human authorities for order and justice. - While we may disagree with political leaders, we are called to submit to authority as long as it does not violate God's commands.

- Reference 1 Timothy 2:1-2: "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

Explain that Praying for leaders, even when we disagree, is a Christian responsibility. - Our prayers can influence their decisions and bring about peace.

- Quote Titus 3:1: "Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good."

## **22.4 The Destructive Impact of Political Violence**

- Reference Exodus 21:12-14: "Anyone who strikes a person with a fatal blow is to be put to death. However, if it is not done intentionally but God lets it happen, they are to flee to a place I will designate. But if anyone schemes and kills someone deliberately, that person is to be taken from my altar and put to death."

Explain that in this passage from the book of Exodus, the Bible recommends very extreme penalties for violence based on intention. This underscored how God frowns at violent actions that may lead to human life.

- Reference Matthew 26:52 (NIV): "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword."

Explain that in this New Testament verse, Jesus discourages the use of violence as a means of resolving conflicts. He emphasizes the consequences of violence, suggesting that those who resort to it will ultimately suffer violence themselves.

- Reference Romans 12:19: "Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord."

Explain that this verse from the book of Romans advises against seeking personal vengeance. It implies that God will be the ultimate judge and dispenser of justice for violent actions, encouraging forgiveness and leaving room for divine justice.

## **Ending with a Summary**

- Summarize the key points about the Christian call to peace, the dangers of political violence, and the appropriate Christian response.

Encourage the congregation to actively seek peace, pray for reconciliation, and follow Jesus' example in promoting love and forgiveness in a world often marred by political violence.

# General Note on Delivering Sermons Using this Guide

## Key Recommendations

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### Introduction - Honoring God's Temple: A Sermon Guide on Indecent Exposure

- Always begin with a warm welcome and a brief acknowledgment of the congregation's presence and the importance of addressing critical issues in our society through the voice of faith.
- Establish the theme of the sermon: Understanding and addressing key legal issues surrounding violence against persons from a faith perspective.

Share relevant statistics: - Provide statistics on the prevalence of violence against persons locally, nationally, or globally. - Highlight the impact of violence on individuals, families, and communities.

- Discuss the responsibility of faith communities in addressing societal issues, including legal matters related to violence. - Emphasize the importance of creating a safe and compassionate space within the faith community.

### Understanding the Legal Issues

- Study the key legal concepts so that you can provide a basic understanding of legal terms and discuss the importance of legal protections for victims.
- Study how faith and religious teachings intersect with legal principles related to human dignity, justice, and compassion.

### Recognizing the Impact

- Share stories or testimonies of individuals who have been affected by violence, either as survivors or advocates. - Allow for a moment of reflection on the real-life consequences of violence.
- Discuss the emotional and spiritual toll violence takes on victims and perpetrators. - Encourage empathy and understanding within the faith community.

### Faith-Based Responses

- Use relevant passages from religious texts that condemn violence and promote love, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Discuss the role of faith in inspiring individuals to work towards justice.
- Encourage the congregation to become actively involved in supporting victims and advocating for legal reforms. Highlight the importance of promoting a culture of reporting and accountability within the faith community.
- Discuss the importance of faith communities collaborating with legal authorities, such as law enforcement, legal aid organizations, and social services. Share examples of successful partnerships.
- Encourage the congregation to engage in advocacy efforts to improve legal responses to violence. Provide resources for contacting legislators, attending community meetings, or participating in awareness campaigns.

## **Conclusion**

- Summarize the key points of the sermon, emphasizing the importance of faith-based responses to legal issues surrounding violence against persons.
- Offer a prayer for healing, justice, and the strength to make a positive impact.
- Invite the congregation to reflect on how they can contribute to creating a safer and more compassionate community.
- Express gratitude for their commitment to addressing these critical issues.

## **Closing Remarks**

- Offer a final word of encouragement and hope, reminding the congregation of the power of faith, compassion, and collaboration in addressing legal issues related to violence.
- Invite congregants to connect with the faith community's resources and support networks.
- Dismiss the congregation with a blessing and a call to action.

# Appreciation

Dear Respected Religious Leaders,

We want to express our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for your unwavering commitment to the well-being of our faith communities and society at large. Your dedication to addressing the critical issue of violence against persons through the sermon guide we provided is a testament to your profound leadership and compassion.

Your willingness to engage with and use the sermon guide demonstrates your commitment to creating safe and nurturing spaces within our faith communities. By tackling the legal issues surrounding violence against persons from a faith perspective, you are not only providing spiritual guidance but also promoting justice, healing, and positive change.

Through your sermons, you are shedding light on the pressing challenges that many individuals face and inspiring hope for a more compassionate and just world. Your efforts in conveying the importance of faith-based responses, community engagement, and collaboration with legal authorities are making a meaningful impact on the lives of those affected by violence.

As you deliver these sermons, we encourage you to continue fostering open dialogue, empathy, and support within your congregations. Your roles as religious leaders extend beyond the pulpit, and your influence can help bring about lasting change in our communities.

Thank you for being beacons of hope, justice, and healing. Your dedication to addressing these vital legal issues is a powerful testament to the transformative potential of faith. May your sermons be a source of inspiration and guidance, and may they contribute to a more peaceful and just world for all.

With deep appreciation and blessings,  
Ipas Nigeria Health Foundation



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