**The Consequences of Neglecting God's Gifts**

*Hebrews 3:2-4*

**Main idea**: To emphasize the importance of stewardship and the potential loss from neglecting what God has entrusted to us.

**Topic**: Do Not Neglect What You Have Received

Suggestion 1: Expand on the consequences of neglecting what God has given you. Use additional Scripture passages such as Matthew 25:14-30 (the parable of the talents) to emphasize the importance of stewardship and using our gifts wisely. Highlight the potential loss and missed opportunities that come from neglecting what God has entrusted to us.

Suggestion 2: Discuss the blessings and rewards that come from faithfully stewarding what God has given. Incorporate passages like Luke 16:10-12 (the parable of the dishonest manager) to illustrate how being faithful in small things leads to greater responsibilities and blessings from God. Emphasize the joy and fulfillment that comes from using our gifts for His glory.

Suggestion 3: Address the reasons why people may neglect what they have received from God. Explore passages like Luke 8:14 (the parable of the sower) to discuss the distractions and cares of this world that can hinder our focus on God's gifts. Encourage your listeners to examine their priorities and identify any areas where they may be neglecting what God has given them.

Suggestion 4: Provide practical steps for avoiding neglect and cultivating gratitude for God's gifts. Use passages like Colossians 3:23-24 to emphasize the importance of working wholeheartedly for the Lord and not for human masters. Encourage your audience to regularly assess their stewardship, set goals, and seek accountability to ensure they are faithfully using what God has given them.

Additional Scripture verses that support your point:

- Proverbs 3:9-10: "Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine." This verse highlights the importance of not neglecting our resources but honoring God with them.

- 1 Timothy 4:14: "Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you." This verse emphasizes the need to recognize and utilize the spiritual gifts we have received.

Language suggestions from the original languages:

- In Hebrews 3:2, the word "faithful" (pistos) can be further explored to highlight the trustworthiness and reliability of God's gifts.

- In Hebrews 3:4, the word "builder" (oikodome) can be used to emphasize the responsibility we have in building and nurturing what God has given us.

Other places where these words are used in the Bible:

- The word "faithful" (pistos) is used in various contexts throughout the New Testament, such as in Matthew 25:21 (the parable of the talents) and Revelation 2:10 (the letter to the church in Smyrna). These passages can be referenced to reinforce the importance of faithfulness in stewardship.

- The word "builder" (oikodome) is used in passages like 1 Corinthians 3:9-10, where it refers to believers being God's fellow workers in building His kingdom. This can be used to emphasize our role in nurturing and developing what God has given us.

Remember to incorporate these suggestions and Scripture references into your sermon in a way that reinforces your main ideas and engages your audience.