

Tips for Those Reading Scripture during Worship

1. Be *spiritually* prepared for the ministry of reading scripture.

Spend a few moments meditating on the importance and privilege of reading God's word to God's people (and to any explorers who may be present). Your reading is part of our worship of God. It precedes the sermon and constitutes the most central part of the Ministry of the Word. Spend a moment thanking God for his written Word.

2. Be *intellectually* prepared for the ministry of reading scripture.

Read through the text, noting any tricky words or phrases and their pronunciations. If needed, consult an on-line pronunciation guide and look up definitions. Be curious about what you are reading.

3. Be *physically* prepared for the ministry of reading scripture, especially with the goal of minimizing distractions for the listener.

Sit close to the lectern, make sure the text you will read is present, note the placement of any microphone or lectern light and practice adjusting these ahead of the service. If your throat feels parched or scratchy, take a soothing throat lozenge before going up to the lectern. If you need reading glasses, be sure to have them with you!

4. Practice reading with clear and expressive speech. Use appropriate volume, projection, a *slower speed* than used in conversation, clear articulation, and engaged expression. Monotone, lifeless, or barely audible reading can be a major deterrent to this ministry.

5. Use intonation appropriate for the genre of scripture that you are reading (E.g. quotations, poetry, historical narratives, and parables, are all read slightly differently than more propositional passages).

6. Above all, read the passage *aloud* several times before you need to read it in the church service.

7. Be sure to read *more slowly and more clearly* than you do in normal conversational speech.

8. Read through the text again *silently* just prior to the service.

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