

Helpful Hints for Public Bible Reading

Prayer

- Pray for the Lord to aid you in your reading.

Voice

- Read slowly and don't rush through – this makes it easier to understand what the chapter is about. You may know and have read the passage several times, but for some it may be very new and they will need you to go slowly.
- Read with feeling – you are trying to make the passage interesting to the hearers. It may help to imagine yourself in place of the original writer, reading to the original audience.

Passage

- Make sure you understand what the passage is about. Read it through a number of times to increase your familiarity with it.
- Practise reading the passage aloud.
- Check beforehand the pronunciation of any difficult words or names.

Equipment

- If you have not used the microphone before, try to arrange a practice with it.
- Adjust the microphone to within about 15cm (6") of your mouth before starting to speak. You cannot be too close to the microphone; if you are too loud the person at the amplifier will turn you down.

Other

- Don't worry about making a mistake – you are in God's house and the people you are reading to are your family, your brothers and sisters in Christ.
- When you arrive, check that the passage you have is in fact the one the minister is going to preach on. Sometimes there are unforeseen changes.
- If you are not reading from the church bibles, make sure you are reading from a New International Version (NIV) of the bible.
- Introduce the passage by giving the reference and then the page numbers where it can be found in the church bibles. Pause a moment to allow people time to find the passage, then give the reference again and start to read.
- Don't read the passage headings that occur every so often – these are not actually part of scripture and are not meant to be read aloud.
- When the reading is finished, there is no real need to say anything else. If you do want to have an 'ending', a simple 'Amen' is fine. However, this is a matter of personal choice and some do like to conclude with phrases such as '*May the Lord bless this portion of His word*'. It is preferable not to use common phrases from the prayer books of other denominations. Likewise, it is a bit contradictory to read in modern English (NIV translation) and then conclude with an older English phrase such as '*Here endeth the first/second reading.*'