

Scripture Reading Instructions

For Corporate Worship Gatherings

Thank you for serving by reading God's Word during our worship service. Scripture reading is a vital part of our gathering—it centers our hearts on truth, reminds us of God's character, and prepares us for worship and the message. Below are a few guidelines and tips to help you prepare and read well:

Before The Service

1. **Prepare in Advance**
 - o Read the passage several times before Sunday. Understand the context, tone, and main message of the passage.
 - o Pray through the text, asking God to help you communicate His Word clearly and meaningfully to the congregation.
2. **Use a Physical Bible**
 - o We highly encourage you to read from a **physical Bible**, not a phone or printed sheet. This helps visually reinforce the authority and reverence we give to Scripture.
 - o Please read from the **English Standard Version (ESV)** to maintain consistency with our preaching and worship materials.

How To Read Well

1. **Read Expressively**
 - o Avoid sounding robotic or monotone. Scripture is alive and powerful—let your voice reflect that.
 - o Pay attention to the tone of the passage. Is it joyful? Solemn? Urgent? Comforting? Let your delivery match the mood of the text.
2. **Pace Yourself**
 - o Don't rush. Read slowly enough for people to absorb the meaning, but not so slowly that the flow is disrupted.
 - o Pause briefly at punctuation marks and between verses to give space for the words to land.
3. **Articulate Clearly**
 - o Speak with clarity and confidence. Project your voice so that everyone can hear you, and pronounce words thoughtfully.
4. **Let the Word Speak**
 - o You are not performing—you're proclaiming. Your role is to serve as a clear and faithful voice for God's Word, allowing the Scripture to take center stage.

During The Service

- Anticipate the end of the worship song to eliminate empty space in the service, and walk to the microphone calmly and confidently.
- Ask the congregation to be seated and introduce the reading with something like:
"You may be seated.....Our Scripture reading this morning is from [Book, Chapter, Verses]."
(e.g., "*Our Scripture reading this morning is from Psalm 23.*")
- Read the passage.
- At the end, you may say:
"This is the Word of the Lord."
And the congregation may respond:
"Thanks be to God." Or "Amen!"
- Then return to your seat quietly.