

GUIDELINES FOR THE MINISTRY OF SCRIPTURE READING

Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.

—1 Timothy 4:13

The apostle Paul understood the public reading of Scripture to be crucial to the spiritual vitality of the local church. We at _____ Church share that conviction. The purpose of this document is to give some practical guidelines for the ministry of public Scripture reading in our worship services. These guidelines are generally applicable for Scripture readings and for leading responsive readings.

1. Readers should receive their assigned passage one week before the service in which they will read. When you receive the assignment, begin reading the passage each day to prepare for the service. This will help you gain better understanding of the passage and prepare you to capture the right tone and emphasis for reading.
2. Since you will be standing before the congregation helping to lead worship, please be sure to dress appropriately.
3. If the congregation is seated when you stand to read, ask them to please stand with you (as they are able) to show reverence for the Word of God.
4. Before you begin reading, indicate the passage to be read to the congregation.
5. Begin your reading with, "Hear the Word of the Lord," and conclude by saying, "This is the Word of the Lord." This is a simple but practical way to follow the example of the prophets of old who reminded people of the authority and gravity of their words.
6. Occasionally, you may be asked to pray following the Scripture reading. Do so with the passage you have read in mind. For example, if the passage speaks about the Lord's goodness, thank the Lord for His goodness to _____ Church, and that the congregation will always recognize His goodness in their lives and ministry.

Thank you for your willingness to be involved in this important part of our life of worship in Christ!

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