



## Job Description – Bible Reader

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Hearing from the Bible is a central part of our church gathering. Each week a different member of our church family reads the Bible passage.

**What to do:** Read the bible clearly and audibly for the congregation.

**Time required:** Time practicing reading the passage before Sunday. Arrive in time for the group prayer 15 mins before church.

**Preparation:** When you read the Bible in church your aim should be to communicate the Word of God, as clearly as possible. The way it is read, should help people to understand it. And to read it that well, means you will have to prepare.

**Please read from the New International Revised Version 2011.** This is the version of the NIRV on Bible gateway ([www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)). Please note there have been several revisions of the NIRV, your NIRV at home might be a different version

### What to do when you are reading in church...

- Have your Bible out and the page marked. Know the page number in the church Bible.
- Know when you are on so there isn't a gap while we wait for you to walk up the front. If you read straight after a song its your job to be there in time to tell people to sit down.
- Come up the front to the microphone before speaking and face us before speaking.
- Introduce yourself and announce the Bible passage (start & finish verse) and give the page number in the church Bibles. Something like: "Hello my name is Fred, our Bible Reading this morning is Mark 1:14-18, you can find it on page XXX if you have a red church Bible" OR "Hi, I'm Gertrude, please follow along as I read from God's Word, the Bible, the passage is Psalm 2, the page number is XXXX".
- Don't tell us its an Old Testament or New Testament passage. This will confuse newcomers who don't know that there are such things as Old and New Testaments, and old-timers will know that Exodus is in the Old Testament. No need to announce the Bible version. We don't need any "Thus says the Lord", "This is the word of the Lord", that may suggest some kind of liturgical response.
- Allow plenty of time to find it (unchurched people may not find Zephaniah as speedily as you)
- Announce the reading again as you start.
- Read it.
- Sit down.

## Helpful Hints

- Make sure you read and prepare from the NIRV2011.
- Make sure you know where the reading finishes. If you have read it through a few times beforehand, this will not be a problem.
- Practice and you will not stumble, but if you do, just keep on going. You don't need to stop and apologise.
- Don't rush it. It's always the temptation for people self-conscious about being up the front. Read slower than you normally would read.
- You don't need to look up.
- Be natural! No weird minister's voices please! Use your own voice. There are enough weird ministers – we don't need any more.
- Pray that God will help you read it so what He says is clear.

## Know the Passage

- What is the main point (Mark 10:35-45).
- Style of writing (Galatians 1:6-9) & (Psalm 147)
- Any repeating words or opposites (Luke 15:1-10)
- Direct Speech, Asides, Explanations, etc. (Mark 7:1-4, Mark 7:5-8)
- Emotions (Gal 1:6-9, 1 Thess 3:6-10)