



SERVING GUIDE: **Reading the Bible in Church**

Thankyou for your willingness to read the Bible at church. It is a very important task as the Bible is the word of God. It is your responsibility to read the Bible in a way that helps people to listen to what God has to say to them. Here are some helpful hints and guidelines:

At home before Sunday

- Pray and ask God to help you read his word helpfully to others
- Call the preacher to find out what the passage(s) are to be read
- Know the passage(s) well. You should know it well enough to outline it in your own words to someone else without having to look at it
- The reason you need to know it so well is because in oral communication meaning is conveyed by expression – [pace / pauses / pitch / volume]. A bland monotone reading of the Bible conveys no meaning and is a dishonour to God. If you know what the passage means you can decide on the appropriate emphasis and communicate meaning as you read using appropriate expression.
- This means you will have to practice reading the Bible text out loud. You should practice out loud at least 5 times. Try varying how to add emphasis at the appropriate points [volume / pace / pitch / pauses]. Having practiced reading it in different ways, decide which way works best to convey the meaning of the passage(s) you will read
- Check the pronunciation of any difficult words
- Consider if the passage needs an introduction. If it does, the introduction should:
 - o be brief
 - o be written out
 - o be discussed with the preacher
 - o it should not tell us what the passage says, but may explain context

On Sunday

- Touch base with the service leader to make sure they know you are present and are able to read
- Confirm with the service leader when you are reading during the service
- Believe that Gods word is living and active and convey that as you read