

SERVING GUIDE:

Reading the Bible in Church



WAGGAWAGGA
EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Thank you for your willingness to read the Bible at church. It is a very important task as the Bible is the word of God. God's word is never boring nor unimportant and it is vital that we honour God by reading His word to us with the care, reverence and respect it deserves. 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
- The preacher will text you the passage(s) 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 mono-tone 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

- Arrive 10 minutes before the service begins to 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 in the order of service
- Believe that God's word is living and active and convey that as you read