

TE6.04 Read the Bible in Church

(5 hours)

Apprentice:	Trainer:	Completed: / /
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Bible reading is arguably the most important activity in our church meetings. Timothy was charged with this responsibility, along with preaching and teaching (1 Tim 4:13). Reading the Scriptures publicly enables the congregation to hear God's eternal Word for their salvation and edification. Apprentices need to learn to read effectively in the church meeting, for their own public ministries and the training of other readers. It is also a realistic place to commence training in public ministry.

Exercise

To read the Bible in church and other public meetings.

Aims

To learn the skills of public Bible reading.

Apprentices

Basics of public Bible reading:

1. Read the words according to their meaning.
This involves understanding the passage, then giving the right emphasis, timing etc. If you think about what you are reading, as you read, you will tend to give the right sense.
2. For example: But God was ANGRY with the people. And Moses said, "WHY have you done this DETESTABLE thing?"
3. Over-emphasise.
4. When you think you are going over-the-top with emphasis, it will be just right.
5. Most people are naturally boring readers. Four things will add variety:
 - **Pace:** read as quickly as possible without stumbling
 - **Pitch:** vary at the beginning of sentences and at important words
 - **Emphasis:** hitting the right word at the right time
 - **Inflection:** upward or downward inflection rather than always the same
6. Check pronunciations beforehand and whatever pronunciation you use, say it confidently.
7. Sit near the front to avoid delay in getting to the lectern.
8. Give the reference and wait for people to find the place.
9. Only give an introduction to the reading in consultation with the person leading the meeting or preacher.
10. Breathe where it makes sense to breathe, not interrupting the flow.
11. Relax, because tense muscles hinder voice quality.
12. Using the microphone:
 - All your efforts will be wasted if people can't hear you.
 - Take the time to set up the microphone properly.
 - You can make adjustments while people are finding the passage in their Bibles.
 - Aim the microphone at your chin and set it about 4-5 inches from your mouth.
 - Speak toward the microphone, not above, below or around it.
 - Project your voice 'through' the microphone. Don't whisper into it. Give the P.A. operator more volume than he needs. He can always turn you down, but

he can't always turn you up.

Trainers

1. **Teach** the basics of public Bible reading
2. **Model** how to read the Bible in Church
3. **Observe** the Apprentice reading the Bible in Church
4. **Give Feedback** with a view to encouragement and development of skills.

Resources

How to Read the Bible Aloud, Clifford Warne and Paul White

Reading the Bible Aloud Course, Matthias Media (available via GoThereFor)