

# From our Churches

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*Church:*

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## **Scripture Reader's Appreciation Workshop**

### **Goals:**

- ❖ Bring the scripture passage to life for the congregation
- ❖ Pique listeners' curiosity – the sermon will be based on the readings
- ❖ Make the passage memorable, so people can reflect on it during sermon

### **Beliefs:**

- ❖ The Bible is not a dusty old book; God's Word is alive & relevant
- ❖ You are God's messenger, delivering an important message to the congregation
- ❖ Scripture is a gift from God
  - Scripture reader has privilege of bringing the gift to the congregation

### **Preparation:**

- ❖ PRAY
  - That God will give you understanding of the scripture
  - That God will help you communicate the message to God's people
  - That you will be able to focus on God's message, not on yourself
- ❖ READ the passage NUMEROUS times
  - Get comfortable with unfamiliar words/names
  - Make sure you understand the passage. If you don't understand, read the context and/or another translation, or ask the pastor.
  - Try emphasizing different words to see how it impacts the message
  - Respect the grammar (commas, periods, quotations, etc.)
- ❖ Think about the THEME of the service, the overall message of the scripture passage (what message you want to bring to the congregation)
- ❖ FEEL the EMOTIONS and express them (anger, fear compassion, humour, frustration, sorrow, joy, doubt, relief, devotion, etc.)
- ❖ What is the best way to get the message across?
  - Occasionally, one may want to consider a different way to present scripture
    - Doing a dialogue with someone else
    - Memorizing the passage and doing a monologue
    - Dressing up as the person who is speaking in the Bible passage
    - Reader's theatre, skit

- ❖ BE WELL PREPARED!
  - Practice, maybe even in front of a mirror
  - Practice looking up to make eye contact
  - Consider marking passages for pronunciation, emphases

**Presentation:**

- ❖ Posture
  - Stand tall
  - Shoulders back and head up
  - Make eye contact
  - Relax – remember the focus is God’s message, not you
- ❖ Introduction
  - Position the microphone to best pick up your voice
  - Take a moment to focus your thoughts. Feel free to make an introductory comment if you want.
  - State the passage and the translation you are using
- ❖ Staying “on track”
  - Consider using a straight-edge or your finger as a guide so you can look up without losing your place
  - Make a copy with large-print (re-typing the passage also helps the teller internalize the passage.)
- ❖ Pacing
  - DON’T RUSH. Read each word clearly.
  - Use SILENCE (pauses) to communicate:
    - To give people a chance to reflect on what has just been said
    - To alert people to the importance of the upcoming passage
- ❖ Let yourself really experience it!
  - Feel and express the mood/emotions in the passage
  - Think of the message you are reflecting
- ❖ Focus on GOD!

**Practice Session**

As a small group of about 3 people, discuss possible themes, message/style, mood/emotions, and pacing considerations for any 3 of the following passages. Then have each person pick one passage and “trial run” it for the other small group participants. Provide feedback, remembering to provide POSITIVE remarks as well as constructive criticism.

When we get back together as a larger group we will discuss some of the different interpretations and inspiration the groups got out of the passages.

If you have time, do the same with the other 3 passages.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-9	Poetry – “To everything there is a season”
Psalms 1:1-6	Contrasting themes
1 John 4:7-16	Love
Matthew 26:39-42	Jesus’ prayer in Gethsemane
Matthew 27:19-26	Crowd rejection of Jesus/Anger
Matthew 27:45-54	Jesus’ Death