

1 INTRODUCTION

...devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture... *1 Timothy 4.13*

A Bible Reader delivers well-prepared Bible readings that help the congregation engage with God's word.

Ministry Team	Sunday Services
Training	EMMC: The Public Reading of Scripture Individual coaching as requested or required
Commitment	≈ once every 4-8 Sundays

2 QUALIFICATIONS

The church's **safe ministry standards**, plus:

Convictions	☐ Believe that the Bible is God's word written (cf. 2 Timothy 3.14-17).
Character	☐ Have a personal Bible reading habit (cf. Psalm 1.1-2 etc.). ☐ Faithfully attend the public reading of Scripture in church.
Competence	☐ Willing and able to read, out loud, in front of a group of people. ☐ Initiative to seek assistance for understanding or pronunciation.

3 RESPONSIBILITIES

Before the Service

- **Check rosters** regularly and try to replace yourself if you won't be available for a service.
- **Pray for your ministry** alone or with others, thanking God for the privilege of serving him.
- **Confirm your reading(s)** via whatever to the system the church uses (e.g. eNews or rosters).
- **Read your passage(s)** and reflect on its meaning, seeking help with understanding as necessary.
- **Practice reading your reading(s)** aloud, seeking help with pronunciation as necessary.
- **[Optional] Ask a church member to give you constructive feedback on your reading** afterwards.
- **Arrive at least 15 minutes early** and let the Service Leader know you're ready to read.

During the Service

- **When announced, promptly move to the lectern**, adjusting the microphone as necessary.
- **Take a moment to look at the congregation and love them** (cf. Mark 10.21).
- **Introduce yourself and the first (or only) reading** in a friendly manner, e.g.

'Hello, I'm [Name] and I'm happy to be reading the Bible with you today. Our Old Testament reading is Exodus chapter 20 verses 1 to 21, which you can find on page 61 of the church Bibles.'

- **Introduce** the Bible Reading Prayer collectively, e.g. 'But first, let's pray...' (not 'I'll pray...').

Bible Reading Prayers

First Sunday of the Month

Blessed Lord, you have caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning.
Grant that we may so hear them,
read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them,
that, by patience and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and ever hold fast
the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have
given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Third Sunday of the Month

Gracious God,
your word is alive and active,
sharper than any double-edged sword.
Today, when we hear your voice,
deliver us from hardness of heart.
Help us to put away everything that keeps us
from persevering in your way,
for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Fifth Sunday of the Month

Thank you, Father, for making yourself known to us
and showing us the way of salvation
through faith in your Son.
Teach us through your word
and equip us for every good work,
for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Second Sunday of the Month

Thank you, Father,
that all Scripture is God-breathed
and is useful for teaching, rebuking,
correcting and training in righteousness.
Open our hearts to receive your word,
that we may know you better
and be thoroughly equipped for every good work,
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Fourth Sunday of the Month

Gracious God,
as the Bible is read and taught to us today,
deliver us from unbelief and disobedience.
Help us to exhort and encourage one another,
that none may be hardened
by the deceitfulness of sin.
Produce in us the fruit of your Spirit,
for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

- **Deliver your reading(s)** clearly and calmly, introducing a second reading appropriately, e.g.,

'Our New Testament reading is Matthew chapter 5 verses 21-30, on page 810 of the church Bibles, and here Jesus is speaking...'
- **Conclude your reading(s)** with appropriate gravity, e.g. saying the bold text in the response:

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.
Congregation: Thanks be to God

4 NOTES

Nil.

5 RESOURCES

Key Resource

Carson, D. A. *Praying with Paul: A Call to Spiritual Reformation*. Second edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2015.

6 APPENDICES

Nil.

