

## 1 INTRODUCTION

A Bible Reader brings the good news to people in church by reading God's word aloud in an engaging way.

<b>Ministry Team</b>	Services
<b>Supervisor</b>	Rector
<b>Supervises</b>	N/A
<b>Training</b>	EMMC Public Reading of Scripture (In Development)

## 2 QUALIFICATIONS

	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Attainable</b>
<b>Convictions</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Jerusalem Declaration 2008</i>	
<b>Character</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Faithfulness in Service</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Ministry Check <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Ministry Training <input type="checkbox"/> Personal devotional habit	
<b>Competence</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading aloud	<input type="checkbox"/> Microphone use

## 3 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 Pray that you'll fulfil your responsibility in a way that glorifies God, encourages Christians and engages others.
- 3.2 In the week prior, confirm the passage(s) you will be reading (e.g. check roster or eNews).
- 3.3 Practice the readings in the Bible version your church uses. Your level of expression should be above dryness but below drama. If necessary, seek guidance for the pronunciation of unfamiliar words (e.g. names).
- 3.4 On the Sunday you're reading, arrive 15 minutes early and make your presence known to the Service Leader. If possible, choose a seat that will allow you to reach the lectern quickly when it's time for the reading(s).
- 3.5 At the announcement of the reading(s), move to the front and adjust the microphone as necessary.
- 3.6 Introduce and deliver the reading(s) according to your church's custom (see Appendix I: Bible Reading Script).
- 3.7 Seek or be willing to receive appropriate feedback on your fulfilment of this responsibility.

## 4 RESOURCES

Camilleri, Simon. 'The Ministry of Public Bible Reading'.  
<https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-ministry-of-public-bible-reading>

Challies, Tim. 'The Public Reading of Scripture'  
<https://www.challies.com/articles/the-public-reading-of-scripture>

Roberts, Simon. '3 Big Ideas and 7 tips on How to Read the Bible in church'. *The Briefing* #331.  
<https://gotherefor.com/offer.php?intid=28573&changestore=true>

## 5 APPENDICES

- I. Bible Reading Guide
- II. Bible Reading Prayers

# APPENDIX I: BIBLE READING GUIDE

The following guide can be followed as a script or adjusted as appropriate (e.g. you can vary the greeting).

- Don't read passage headings (which aren't original) but do read psalm notes (e.g. 'A Psalm of David').
- After you announce each reading, give the congregation at least ten seconds to find it in their Bibles.
- For prayers before the reading see Appendix II: Bible Reading Prayers.

Good morning! Before we read, let's pray.

[Prayer]

Our Old Testament reading is from the Book of [NAME] chapter [#] verses [#] to [#] and can be found on page [#] of the church Bibles.

[Reading]

Our New Testament reading is from the Book of [NAME] chapter [#] verses [#] to [#] and can be found on page [#] of the church Bibles.

[Reading]

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

- Don't read passage headings (which aren't original), but do read heading notes in the Psalms.
- Take care to direct your voice into the microphone, adjusting its position as necessary.

# APPENDIX II: BIBLE READING PRAYERS

## 1 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.**

## 2 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.**

## 3 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.**

## 4 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.**

## 5 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.**