

BIBLE READER ROLE DESCRIPTION

1 INTRODUCTION

A Bible Reader brings the good news to people very directly, by reading the Bible aloud in an engaging way.

Role Type	Ministry Role
Ministry Team	N/A
Supervisor	Minister-in-Charge
Training	Induction / Seminar Ongoing Feedback

2 QUALIFICATIONS

Convictions	Jerusalem Declaration (GAFCON 2008)
Character	<i>Faithfulness in Service</i> <i>The Ten Commitments</i>
Competence	Reading aloud before a congregation.

3 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 In the week before the Sunday you're reading, check the eNews for the selected readings. In the event that the eNews is delayed, contact the Minister-in-Charge for the selected readings.
- 3.2 Read and practice the selected readings so you'll be able to read them before the congregation with appropriate expression. If you need any help (e.g. pronouncing an unfamiliar word) contact the Ministry Staff.
- 3.3 On the Sunday you're reading, arrive early to the service and notify the Service Leader of your readiness.
- 3.4 Introduce and deliver the reading as per Appendix I: Bible Reading Script, then return to your seat.

4 NOTES

- Ensure that you're practicing and reading from the English Standard Version of the Bible.
- 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.
- Unprepared Bible readers usually diminish the congregation's engagement with the text.

5 RESOURCES

Simon Roberts, 'How to Read the Bible in Church', *The Briefing* #331.

6 APPENDICES

Appendix I: Bible Reading Script
Appendix II: Bible Reading Prayers

APPENDIX I: BIBLE READING SCRIPT

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

[See Appendix II: Bible Reading Prayers and copy prayer into box if you wish].

Our Old Testament reading is from the Book of...

_____ chapter _____ verses _____ to _____ on page _____
Book Chapter # Verse #s Page #

[Silently count to ten, repeat reference, begin reading.]

Our New Testament reading is from the Book of...

_____ chapter _____ verses _____ to _____ on page _____
Book Chapter # Verse #s Page #

[Silently count to ten.]

[Silently count to ten, repeat reference, begin reading.]

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Please note this script is flexible (e.g. you can vary the greeting) but please stick to the script with the prayer and closing response (i.e. 'This is the word of the Lord...').

APPENDIX II: BIBLE READING PRAYERS

1 FIRST 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.**

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

Heavenly Father,
give us faith to receive your word,
understanding to know what it means,
and the will to put it into practice,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

4 FOURTH 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.**

5 FIFTH 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.**