

# 1 reading the bible at church

The Bible is an amazing book. It's a wonderful mix of songs, stories, proverbs, prophecies, and promises. It's the best selling book in history. But what makes it *really amazing*? It's God's inspired word to our broken world! It's truth from God (Jn. 17:17), useful in all of life (2 Tim. 3:16-17), and is used by God to change us (Heb. 4:12). That's why we take the Bible seriously at Wavell Heights Presbyterian Church. Being able to read the Bible in a public setting like a Sunday church service is a privilege and a joy. If you're asked to do a Bible reading, we hope you enjoy it! To help you read the Bible for all it's worth, here are a few guidelines:



## Say hello to 'mic'

Using microphones is a reality in any contemporary church, so if you're going to speak up the front you're going to use a 'mic'. While using a mic is an art, not a science, here are a couple of things to remember:

- ☑ **Speak up, but don't yell.** As with anything you say in life, volume matters. When you're up the front, project your voice with enough strength to be heard by the mic, but don't force your voice beyond a good volume. If your mouth is less than 20cm away from the mic you'll possibly be too loud and your body will be leaning forward and uncomfortable.
- ☑ **Watch your "p"s.** When you say a word like "people", you exhale a short burst of air as you pronounce the "p". This can often create a loud knocking sound in the microphone. If this keeps happening perhaps adjust the angle of your head or the position of the mic.
- ☑ **It's not a toy!** The microphone is your friend, but don't get too friendly! If at all possible avoid touching the mic. If you do need to reposition the mic, please do so gently.

## OK. What about the reading?

Now you've met 'mic', here are some tips to help you read the Bible clearly and be understood . . .

- ☑ **Pre-read the passage.** Reading the passage before you get to church will help you to be familiar with what it says. At home, try to read it *out loud* a couple of times. Have a think about what's happening in the reading. Get advice on any tricky words or place names. You also might like to check with the preacher to find out if he has identified any key words or phrases that need emphasising.
- ☑ **Remind everyone of what's about to happen.** When you get up to read, let everyone know what's going on. Don't assume people have been paying attention! Say something like, "We're going to read {book}, verses x to x; page xxx". Pause for a brief moment. Then go for it.
- ☑ **Stay focused.** Whenever you're up the front of church you become aware that everyone can see you and hear you. There are faces, coughing, and people moving around the room. Try to put all that out of your mind and focus on the words before you. Keep your eyes fixed on the reading and focus there.
- ☑ **Use natural variations in your reading.** When you read, try to avoid using a single speed, monotone voice. The best way to read is to vary your speed a little, slowing down a little for the most serious words or phrases, and speeding up a little when reading background info. Feel free to put a little expression in your voice, but not too much. Overdoing the drama can be distracting and turn your reading into a performance.
- ☑ **It's OK to be nervous.** Feeling nervous about being up the front is normal. Sometimes serving Jesus means we need courage to do things that push us out of our comfort zone. Please remember the people listening to your reading aren't grumpy grizzly bears. You'll analyse the quality of your reading more than anyone else in the room. We're just glad you're serving us in this way!
- ☑ **It's true no matter what you do!** It's natural to sometimes make little mistakes while doing the reading. Don't let it throw you. No matter how well we read it, God always uses his word to achieve his purposes! It depends on him, not us (Isaiah 55:10-11). Again—*thanks for your willingness to serve us!*