

How to read the Bible Aloud

It is essential that we communicate meaning as we read. If what we say isn't heard or understood then *you will just be speaking into the air* (1 Corinthians 14:9). We need to understand the passage that we are reading. We also need to be clear in our delivery (emphasis, pauses and expression) in order to communicate God's Word effectively.

Understanding

- Your job is to communicate the passage in such a way that people will understand what it says. If you don't understand what you are saying then it will be very hard to read the passage in a way that will help other people understand it.
- This will require a little preparation on your part. Reading the passage through a few times, looking at the context of the passage and praying about it is a good start. It's a good idea to check out a Bible study guide if you're not sure what something in a passage means.
- If you're not sure how to pronounce a word (eg an OT name or place) just break it down into syllables and have a go. Having practised at home will be a great help!

Emphasis

- If you understand the meaning then you will know where to put the emphasis when reading. The reader's emphasis helps the listener get the meaning. The wrong emphasis can hide, confuse or even change the meaning.

Pauses

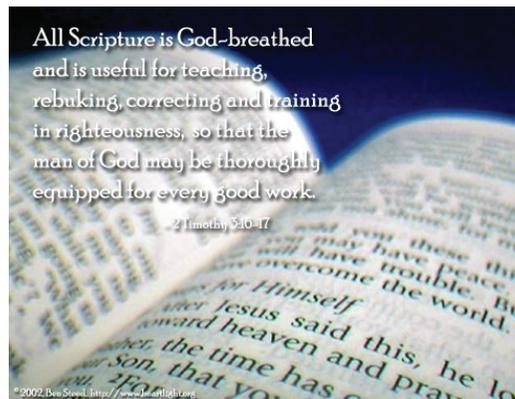
- Pauses divide the text into phrases, and phrases reveal meaning. This also allows the listener to take in what has been said. Pauses in the wrong place can hide, confuse or even change the meaning.

Expression

- Good expression gives the reading liveliness and emotion. Inappropriate expression focuses attention on the reader rather than the reading.

Summary

- Your job is to communicate the meaning of the passage.
- You need to understand what you are reading.
- You can communicate meaning through correct emphasis, appropriate pausing and natural expression.



A Brief Guide To...

Reading the Bible in Church

