

The Studio

EPISODE // READING SCRIPTURE IN PUBLIC

Speaking in front of large groups is often a daunting task for many people. In most polls, public speaking tops the list of greatest human fears, more than heights, spiders, or even death. So when it comes to reading scripture in front of people, most of the time, we forget that we are actually reading the words of God. We're so nervous we might mess up in front of our friends, family, and the whole congregation.

But, reading scripture is one of the most important things we do as Christians. And when we're called to read scripture at church, it is our responsibility to make the words come alive for the congregation. Here are a few steps you can take in preparation when you're asked read scripture in public

- ✦ **Make preparing to read scripture a part of your daily Bible study.**
- ✦ **Read over the text multiple times and ask questions about the text.**
 - ✦ What is the purpose?
 - ✦ What is God trying to say?
 - ✦ Who are the main characters?
 - ✦ What are the main ideas in the passage?
 - ✦ What is the main point that should be remembered?
- ✦ **Think about how you'll read the text.**
 - ✦ What parts of the passage should be fast and what parts should be slow?
 - ✦ What words or phrases should you emphasize?
 - ✦ What should your voice sound like?
 - ✦ How will your eye contact with the congregation add emphasis to the words?
- ✦ **Once you've read through the text multiple times, practice how you'll read in worship.**
 - ✦ Practice reading out loud.
 - ✦ Practice walking to the platform with confidence.
 - ✦ Make sure your voice is clear and projects well.
 - ✦ Announce the passage you're reading.
 - ✦ Read from an actual Bible.
 - ✦ If your Bible's print is too small, don't be afraid to print the scripture passage on paper in a larger, legible font, and stick that in the middle of your Bible.

In the end, preparation and confidence is key to successfully reading scripture in worship. The more you prepare on the front end, the easier it will be for you to focus on bringing the word of God to life for you and your congregation.