

Reading Scripture Aloud *Some Suggestions for Preparation*

Your role as a Scripture Reader is an important one. You are one of the preachers, telling the true and miraculous story of God's redeeming plan for all people.

As you know, we speak the Word of God which is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. (Heb. 4:12) God's Word is such that as it is proclaimed, it never returns to Him empty, but accomplishes the purposes for which He sent it. (Isaiah 55:11)

So what are God's purposes for those who will gather? Every person who steps into this place needs to know or be reminded that God is good, God is powerful, God loves us, and God is for us. His Word has power to change and transform the way we think and the way we live; therefore, our reading of it deserves our best attention and preparation.

Your intentional preparation combined with a humble, prayerful attitude will result in a reading that will bring Him much glory.

1) **Pray.** Each day, ask God to use you to proclaim His word (in speaking and in actions). Ask for a spirit of wisdom and revelation for your passage. Ask God to help you ask the right questions of the text. Ask Him to show you what (from your text) applies to your own life. Ask for a heart of love and compassion for the people who will hear His Word.

2) **Repetition.** Plan on reading aloud your text every day, at least 5-7 times a day. Your goal is not to be a "dramatic" reader; your goal is to be an authentic, Spirit-filled storyteller. Excellent storytellers know and understand their stories.

3) **Check out Biblegateway.com** for other translations of your text. This can be helpful in unpacking phrases that might be difficult to understand.

4) **Know the background or context of your story.** Commentaries are helpful, as well as reading footnotes in your Bible. Also, Walter Wangerin's *Book of God* (which contains many of the Biblical stories beautifully written in novel form) will inspire you to tell your portion of the story well.

5) **Look in the mirror** as you read. The mirror gives honest, non-biased feedback. Read to family members and ask for feedback. Know your story well enough so you can look up and at people frequently. And mark up or highlight your text so you have "visual anchors" to keep you on track as you read.

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