

# How to Read Scripture in Public

1 Timothy 4:12-13, *“Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe. Until I come, give attention to **the public reading of Scripture**, to exhortation and teaching.”*

1. Choose a larger Bible to read from. Stay away from pocket Bibles and those with small print. Make sure you do not have to strain to see it or have to put it too close to your face. If your only option is a cell phone, be sure to enlarge the font size.
2. Read over the passage a few times before you read it in public. Look-up or ask someone about the proper pronunciation of difficult words.
3. Make sure the passage has been bookmarked in your Bible so you can turn to it immediately without having to flip through the pages to find it.
4. If it was not already announced, tell the audience where the passage is found (“I’ll be reading from...”). In some situations, you will need to give the audience time to find the passage, but other times you will just need to read it.
5. Pay attention to your posture and body language. Stand up straight, but not too stiff (be at ease before the audience). Stay in one position without rocking back and forth or swaying from side to side. Do not jingle keys or coins in your pocket.
6. Read loud enough to be heard in the back of the room. If there is a microphone, make sure you are facing it (not too close and not too far away).
7. Make sure your words are clear and distinct—not garbled or running together. You need to be easily understood.
8. Regulate the speed of your reading so you are not talking too quickly or too slowly. You may want to change the pace to fit the reading (e.g. slower for a thoughtful psalm, faster for a battle scene).
9. Use tone inflection. Make sure you do not have a dull or monotone pitch to your voice as you read. If the passage is cheerful, sad, exciting, or serious then that should be reflected in the tone of your voice. Read with feeling and depth (without overdoing it).
10. If you know the passage extremely well and will not lose your place, you can look up at the audience from time to time.