

Scripture Reader's Guidelines

Thank you very much for your participation in the ministry of reading scriptures at Second Baptist Church.

Scripture reading is a vital part of worship at Second Baptist. Our service usually contains at least two passages of scripture that are carefully chosen to be meaningful to the total worship experience. For the brief time you read from the lectern, you are God's voice. Approach the occasion of reading with reverence and dignity.

During the week you are scheduled to read, you will receive an email copy of the scriptures and draft bulletin for the upcoming Sunday. It will arrive on Thursday or Friday of that week. The scripture is also posted to the [Resources Page](#) on the Second B website.

On Sunday morning, an enlarged copy of the scripture reading will be on the lectern. Please read the translation provided so the congregation can follow along with you on the screens. Do not attempt to read from the screens in the worship hall.

You may wish to print and mark-up your own copy of the scripture, just use the same translation, so the congregation can follow along with you on the screens. We no longer read from the Bible on the Communion Table. It stays on the table.

Move to the platform **prior** to the first reading and sit in one of the chairs behind the lectern. When it is time to read, immediately step to the lectern. If it is a Gospel reading (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John), ask the congregation to stand for the reading of the Gospel if they are not already standing.

At the conclusion of each reading, lead the people in the response printed in the order of worship at the end of that printed scripture.

Before the first reading and after the second, you may sit wherever you wish; however, between the first and second readings, please remain seated on the platform in one of the chairs behind the lectern.

If you have any questions, please call Director of Operations Mike Spann at (806) 783-0202.

Suggestions for Getting Ready for the Reading

Once you've received your assigned reading

1. Read it aloud multiple times.

2. Check for pronunciation challenges. Look them up and practice them until it's easy to say. A good pronunciation web address is <https://www.netministries.org/resources/resource-pronunciation-guide>.
3. Check for meaning. Read the scripture several times to get the context of the passage.
4. Look at the punctuation. Let it give you clues for meaning and where to give special emphasis. A comma means pause and a period means stop, wait.
5. Practice changes in pitch and volume as the scripture dictates.
6. It may be helpful to mark your passage with symbols you understand to help you remember pauses, stops, changes in pitch and volume. Read the scriptures several times, paying attention to your markings.
7. Read the passages over and over before Sunday.
8. The only introduction needed as you begin is the book, chapter, and verses.
9. If the reading is from one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John), ask the congregation to stand if they are able.
10. Speak into the microphone and pronounce words clearly and distinctly. While it may be tempting to read quickly, take your time to make sure the meaning of the passage is communicated.