

IRCC Chapel – Scripture Reader Guidelines

Thank you for volunteering to read Scripture. Public Scripture reading is an important ministry and a vital part of our service.

God wants His people to prioritize reading Scripture when we gather together. When the Bible is read, God is speaking. This is actually the only perfect portion of the worship service!

Being asked to be a Reader is an honor. If you accept, be sure to spend time preparing, studying, and praying for illumination and understanding (www.biblegateway.com is a great resource). If you are asked to read but do not believe you have the gift or have no time to get ready, please say “no.” Volunteer again when you have time to adequately prepare.

Your role as a Reader is to be as neutral as possible, so the congregation’s attention is on the Word of God, not you. Therefore, please keep in mind the following tips:

- † Please state the version of the Bible from which you are reading (e.g., New Revised Standard Version, New King James Version, etc.).
- † Please do not make extemporaneous, “off-the-cuff” remarks from the pulpit.
- † Please do not make personal comments or judgments about the Scripture’s relevance to world or national politics and/or events.
- † Please do not make humorous remarks or jokes from the pulpit (the Chaplains may do so as part of their sermon, but this is not your role as a Scripture Reader).
- † Please do not offer your personal explanation/interpretation of the Scripture or its meaning/relevance (that is the purpose of the Chaplain’s sermon).
- † If you believe a bit of context or brief introduction for the Scripture is important to help the congregation’s understanding, please check during the week with the Chaplain giving the sermon to see if they will provide context in their sermon. If the Chaplain agrees a bit of context is appropriate, please provide no more than about 30 seconds lead in. Contact Rev. Tim Hall at 850-529-4858, chapthall@gmail.com, or Rev. Ken Lewis at 252-503-1374, frguido60@gmail.com.

As one of the most sacred parts of worship, reading God’s Word deserves the whole congregation’s reverence and respect. By observing the above guidelines, you allow the Spirit of God to do His job, which is to reveal the Word of God to those within hearing.

Thank you for volunteering your skills to read God’s Word aloud. May your service be a Blessing to Him!