



Public Bible Reading Role Description¹

1. DPC Vision Statement

Darebin Presbyterian Church (DPC) exists “to help the City of Darebin find deep satisfaction in knowing and serving Christ.” The ministry of public bible reading is crucial in helping us to realise this vision, because deep satisfaction in Christ can only be found as we encounter Him in God’s Word. This is why Paul says to Timothy: “the Holy Scriptures are able to make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 3:15) and therefore he should “Devote himself to the public reading of Scripture...” (1 Tim. 4:13).

2. Key Outcomes

Our main goal in public Bible reading is to help people encounter God, by hearing him speak through his Word – practically that means we strive to:

- Read the Bible with **clarity**, so that everyone can hear God’s Word and follow it with ease.
- Read the Bible with **comprehension** of its meaning, so that our hearers can begin to understand what the passage is about.

3. Specifics of Role

During the week...

- You will receive an email early in the week to let you know what the bible passage is for the following Sunday
- DPC has chosen to use the NIV2011 for our public Bible readings. You might like to copy and paste the NIV translation of the passage from BibleGateway.com and format it so that it is easy for you to read
- Identify any words in the passage that are hard to pronounce, or that you don’t know how to pronounce, and ask Pastor Aaron for help if you need to
- If helpful, make notes on the passage – underlining key words, indicating appropriate places to pause or give emphasis, mark out the different sections, or scenes in the passage.
- You don’t have to be an expert on the passage, but if you are going to help people to begin to comprehend the meaning of the passage it is useful to have at least some sense of things like the purpose, genre, and emotional tone of the passage.
- Practice reading the passage out loud several times – maybe even record yourself, or read it to someone else. Practice looking up when you are reading – this will make the reading a bit more personal and engaging.
- Pray. Remember that it’s God’s word that you are reading, not just human words.

¹ Much of the content for this role description was taken from Simon Camilleri’s document entitled: “The Ministry of Public Bible Reading” – available at: <http://www.simoncamilleri.com>

On Sunday...

- Arrive by 3:50pm so you can find out from the service leader exactly when the Bible reading will happen during the service (you can also check this on the Elvanto service plan which will be linked in the email that you received earlier in the week)
- Pray – especially that God would calm any nerves that you might have
- When you stand up, take a deep breath and slow down
- Say what passage you are going to read, and where people can find it – something like: “*Today’s reading is from Ephesians chapter 6, verse 10 to 13. You can find it on the Welcome Card, on page ? of the church Bibles, or just follow along on the screen behind me*”
- Pause to allow people time to find the passage
- Take a deep breath, and remind yourself to slow down
- Read as you have practiced during the week

4. Support and Accountability

If you have any questions or concerns about your role in public Bible reading you can contact Aaron Boyd (aaron@darebinpc.com.au) who is the current Bible Reading Department Leader.