

FLC Readers Training

Thank you for your interest in sharing the Word of God out loud at worship. I hope the following outline will be helpful to you as you prepare. Please contact me at 909 599-3978 or at dberkedal@faithsd.net if you have any questions. Contact Ralph Natale at (626) 915-2695 for scheduling.

David Berkedal, Pastor

- I. The reason for readers.
 - a. Nearly everyone in our congregation could read for themselves, but relatively few are able to read at worship in front of a group.
 - b. Readers (lectors) convey the presence of God in the words of the Word read out loud.
 - i. Hearing scripture provides a common, community experience, a worship experience connecting with the presence of God.
 - ii. God encounters the congregation through your reading.
 - c. Readers and their readings are a part of the flow of Christian worship.
 - i. A worshipper who attends every worship service for three years will hear just about the entire story of salvation in the Bible.
 - ii. Our three year cycle of readings is the same as that read in nearly all historic Christian churches.
2. Prepare
 - a. Practice reading the First and Second Lessons in the **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible**, the one that we use.
 - i. There is a schedule of the readings for the year on the cork board at the usher's desk. You may also contact the church at flc@faithsd.net or 909 599-3978 to get the readings.
 - ii. Practice the readings so you can read them with understanding.
 - iii. Check pronunciation online so don't stumble, but it is more important to understand
 - iv. Practice the readings several times so can look up at congregation, making eye contact with different parts of the room each time.
 - b. The Altar Guild will mark the Bible before worship
 - i. Make sure it is open to the First Lesson before worship
 - ii. Make sure that all readings are marked correctly.
 - c. The Psalm for the day is from a translation made for worship. It can be found in our hymn book on page 339 and following if you want to practice it in advance.
3. Reading
 - a. The Bible at the Reading Desk will be marked by the Altar Guild
 - i. It will be open to the First Lesson for the first service.
 - ii. All of the readings from the Bible will be marked at the correct page with a ribbon, and the specific passage to be read will be marked on the page with post-it notes

- iii. Readers at the second service may want to be sure the Bible is opened to the First Lesson before the service begins.
 - b. Sit near the front and/or move to the Reading Desk as soon as you can to maintain the flow of worship.
 - c. The Reading Desk may be raised or lowered to your desired height by flipping the switch on the back right, up or down.
 - d. Make sure the microphone is pointed toward you.
 - e. Project your voice to the back of the room, speak from your “gut”.
 - f. Clear your mind, open your heart to let the Holy Spirit work through, relax, and read.
 - g. The First and Second Lesson are announced with the words, “A reading from _____ (example: “Galatians, the second chapter).
 - i. They are concluded with the words, “The Word of the Lord.” and the congregation responds, “**Thanks be to God.**”
 - ii. The, and the concluding words, will be projected on the screen at the back of the worship space.
 - h. The Psalm for the day will appear on the back wall of the room.
 - i. The first slide will give the Psalm (NOTE: it is **usually** from the book of Psalms).
 - ii. The Psalm is announced with the words, “The Psalm for the Day is _____ (example: “Psalm 128, verses 1-5). We will read it responsively.
 - iii. Then, you will read the smaller, non-bold text, and the congregation in turn will read the larger bold text.
 - iv. Usually both your part and the congregation’s part will be on the same screen. They may be on different screens if the verse is long.
- 4. Dress in a similar fashion as the average “dressy” look at the worship service in which you read.

Thank you for sharing your gifts as a Bible reader at worship.

“So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.” Romans 10:17

