

The Art of Worship Learning Circle Reading Scripture

(NOTE: This handout will be posted on the Trinity Grimsby website in near future)

Steps to be taken when reading sacred stories for the congregation

- 1) Offer a word of prayer
- 2) Introduce the specific reading naming the book and the chapter and verses
- 3) Offer a few brief sentences to set the context (e.g. who is speaking and what's just happened, or a commentary to prepare the listeners)
- 4) Distinguish your words from the Biblical words with these beginning and ending phrases:

Begin:

“Listen now to this sacred story” or “Listen now to these sacred words”
“Hear the word of God in the words of the people of God”

End:

“Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church”
“Hear the wisdom of our faithful ancestors”
“Hear the wisdom of the Prophet ___insert name of prophet___”
“Hear the wisdom of the earliest Christian community”
“Hear the word of God in the words of the people of God”

Time must be spent a head prior to the reading

- Look up the scripture; it is at this point that you will find yourself asking...” *Which Bible should I be reading from?*” In most cases the version of the Bible that you should be reading is the New Revised
- read the passages just previous to the scripture you are reading so you can set the context for yourself (and the congregation later)
- Practice reading the scripture by reading it over in your mind first to determine phrasing then read it aloud 2 or 3 times
- If you encounter a word for which you do not know the pronunciation, look it up at this website where it will be audible <http://netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm> (or Google biblical pronunciation)
- Choose the prayer of illumination that you feel most comfortable praying
- Choose the appropriate phrase for the ending.

Upon arrival:

- check to make sure that you have the bible opened to the right book, chapter and verse (If leading a responsive psalm have the hymn book ready)

Prayers of illumination

(A laminated copy of these options will be available on the lectern for your use.)

Gracious God,
we do not live by bread alone.
Let the heavenly food of the scripture
we are about to hear
nourish us today in the ways of eternal life,
through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven.
Amen

God of mercy,
you promised never to break your covenant with us.
In the midst of the multitude of words in our daily lives,
speak your eternal Word to us,
that we may respond to your gracious promises
with faithfulness, service and love.
Amen.

God, source of all light
by your Word, you give light to the soul.
Pour out on us
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
that our hearts and minds may be opened
to know your truth and your way.
Amen.

Shine within our hearts, loving God, the pure light
of your divine knowledge,
and open the eyes of our minds and hearts
that we may understand and embrace the message of the Scripture.
Amen.

Living God,
help us so to hear your Word
that we may truly understand;
that, understanding, we may believe;
and believing,
we may follow your way in all faithfulness,
seeking your honor and glory in all that we do.
Amen.