

Bible Reading 2025

Purpose: To provide an opportunity for young people to develop skills through the oral reading of Scripture.

Process:

- Choose a reading from Old or New Testament for each participant.
- Choose reading from a standard translation, no paraphrases.
- Virtual Submissions: Video must be one continuous take. Participants should treat the camera as the audience.

Rules:

1. A brief introduction is required. The entire presentation of the introduction and Scripture reading is not to be less than one minute or more than two minutes in length. The student's rating will be penalized for any time less than one minute or over two minutes. Therefore, aim for one minute and thirty seconds. After the two-minute time limit, the reader will be stopped.
2. The participant should not attempt to explain or interpret the passages. Participants should place major emphasis on the actual Bible reading and not on prepared statements. The identification of the passage, the translation, and the setting of the passage together shall not exceed 20 seconds.
3. Participants will be penalized if the identification and introduction exceed 20 seconds. Participants will also be penalized if they omit identification of the passage and translation. Memorization is neither required nor encouraged; your ability to read the passage is what is being judged.
4. Each participant will be rated by at least one judge.
5. Spectators may not leave or enter the room while participants are speaking. This is **not** a come-and-go event.
6. Any video or audio equipment must be set up prior to the session and must be stationary. No participant may be taped without his advance approval and appropriate notification of the judges.
7. Reading may be done in English or Spanish.

Awards:

Awards are given to reward preparation and hard work as well as to recognize excellence in presentation. Ratings and awards of gold, silver, bronze, or honorable mention will be given according to the judging criteria listed.

Judging Criteria:

- **Poise** - Proper composure and self-confidence while reading will be rated.
- **Posture** - Proper posture while reading will be rated. One should stand straight with both feet firmly on the floor. Any movement done should be to emphasize a point.
- **Voice Tone** - The proper voice tone will be rated.
- **Voice Volume** - The proper voice volume will be rated. Can the speaker be heard clearly in relationship to the room size and audience?
- **Rate and Flow** - Does the reading flow well?
- **Articulation and Enunciation** - Are the words pronounced clearly and distinctly?
- **Eye Contact** - Proper gestures and eye contact will be rated. To give emphasis to the reading, does the reader have the ability to look away from his text and look at the audience?
- **Introduction to the Passage** - The effectiveness of the participants in: (1) the identification of the passage, (2) the translation, and (3) the setting of the passage will be rated. The identification and introduction should not exceed 20 seconds of the total time.
- **Reading Time** - The entire presentation of the introduction and Scripture reading is not to be less than one minute, nor more than two minutes in length, including the introduction.
- **Overall Impression** - The overall impression of the reader and reading will be rated. This will include appropriate dress.