

Bible Reading, Extemporaneous

PURPOSE:

To provide an opportunity for young people to continue developing their skills through the extemporaneous reading of God's word.

EVENT DESIGN:

Bible Reading, Extemporaneous is an entry-level event. It is an event intended to challenge young people to try the experience of reading in public, and then move on to grow by participating in other more difficult events. Students in grades 3-8, or students with special accommodations, are always able to participate. Students in grades 9-12 may participate for one year only.

GUIDELINES:

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. Students will be penalized for any time under one minute or over two minutes, so aim for one minute and thirty seconds. The reader will be stopped after two minutes.
2. The participant should not attempt to explain or interpret the passages, but should place major emphasis on the actual Bible reading and not on prepared statements.
3. Participants will be penalized if they omit identification of the passage and translation. Memorization is neither required nor encouraged. The ability to read the passage is what is being judged.
4. Students will not read from a paraphrase, but a standard translation. This would include but not be limited to: KJV, NKJV, NIV, RSV, NRSV, ASV, NASV, NCB. Preferably, students will read from bound Bibles. Students may use an electronic device or a paper that has the verses printed on it, but best practice teaches youth to be able to find the verses for themselves.
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 their advance approval and appropriate notification of the judges.
7. Each participant will be rated by at least one judge.

GRADE LEVEL / SCRIPTURES

Grades 3 and 4: Choose and read one of the following scriptures:

Exodus 3:1-5

Exodus 17:1-7

Deuteronomy 4:9-14

Deuteronomy 26:16-19

Grades 5 and 6: Be prepared to read the scriptures from the above grade level plus these verses. One of the six readings will be selected for you.

Exodus 15:11-17

Exodus 24:1-8

Grades 7 and 8: Be prepared to read the scriptures from the above grade levels plus these verses. One of the eight readings will be selected for you.

Exodus 36:1-7

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Grades 9 and 10: Be prepared to read the scriptures from the above grade levels plus these verses. One of the ten readings will be selected for you.

Exodus 19:16-25

Deuteronomy 8:1-10

Grades 11 and 12: Be prepared to read the scriptures from the above grade levels plus these verses. One of the twelve readings will be selected for you.

Deuteronomy 4:32-40 Deuteronomy 11:1-12

AWARDS: There are three ratings available in each grade level – Gold, Silver, and Bronze.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Poise - proper poise while reading will be rated, self-confidence.

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 volume - The proper voice volume will be rated. Can the speaker be heard clearly in relationship to the room size and audience?

Voice tone - The proper voice tone will be rated.

Rate and flow - does the reading flow well?

Articulation and enunciation - proper articulation and enunciation will be rated. 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 the text and look at the audience?

Introduction to passage - the effectiveness of the participant in: (1) the identification of the passage, (2) the translation, and (3) the setting of the passage will be rated.

Overall impression - the overall impression of the reader and reading will be rated. This will not include how the reader is dressed. Please remember, young people from vastly different economic circumstances participate in this convention.

COACHES:

- Have the students study the list of scriptures for their specific grade level. All readings should be from a standard translation. No paraphrases.
- Be properly registered for this event; give a list to the church coordinator of those students participating in the event. All entries must be finalized on or before [Final Registration Deadline](#). No one will be able to participate in an event if they have a conflict with another event.
- Be sure that only eligible students participate; see Event Design on the previous page.
- Participants in grades 3 & 4 should select one scripture to read from the list for their age group. This age group will be the only group to do this.
- Participants in the other age groups must be prepared to read any of the Scriptures listed below their age group. The scriptures below are the starting point of the reading. The readers will determine how long the reading should be. They will be judged on the time they take.
- Each participant (other than grades 3 - 4) will be given a scripture that has been drawn from their list by the Room Coordinator.
- Make certain that every student arrives at the correct room on time, with their Bible and their name tag. Each participant must be prepared to give an introduction and read the verses.