



## How to read the Bible out loud

Handout 1/16 from Article A49 <https://www.john-truscott.co.uk/Resources/Articles-index>

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### Delivery: 1 Expression – The volume control

Illustrations: Psalm 100 + Mark 8:22-30 + Ephesians 2:11-22

#### Project your voice

#### Read 'out' not 'down'

#### Increase the volume

#### Decrease the volume

#### Vary the volume



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Handout 2/16 from Article A49 <https://www.john-truscott.co.uk/Resources/Articles-index>

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### Delivery: 1 Expression – The speed control

Illustrations: Psalm 100 + Mark 8:22-30 + Ephesians 2:11-22

#### Don't rush

#### Keep the narrative flowing

#### Don't hurry some passages

#### Slow down for teaching

#### Vary the speed



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Handout 3/16 from Article A49 <https://www.john-truscott.co.uk/Resources/Articles-index>

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### Delivery: 1 Expression – The mood options

Illustrations: Psalm 100 + Mark 8:22-30 + Ephesians 2:11-22

#### Communicate mood

#### Feel the mood – 1

#### Feel the mood – 2

#### Express mood in speech

#### Vary the mood – 1+2



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Handout 4/16 from Article A49 <https://www.john-truscott.co.uk/Resources/Articles-index>

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### Delivery: 2 Punctuation – Structure

Illustrations: Psalm 100 + Mark 8:22-30 + Ephesians 2:11-22

#### Look at the paragraphs

#### Look for links

#### Examine the punctuation structure

#### Note reported speech

#### Grasp the grouped words



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Handout 5/16 from Article A49 <https://www.john-truscott.co.uk/Resources/Articles-index>

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### Delivery: 2 Punctuation – Phrases and lists

Illustrations: Psalm 100 + Mark 8:22-30 + Ephesians 2:11-22

#### Seek phrasing within structure

#### Analyse complicated sentences

#### Look for lists – 1

#### Look for lists – 2

#### Spot question marks



## How to read the Bible out loud

Handout 6/16 from Article A49 <https://www.john-truscott.co.uk/Resources/Articles-index>  
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### Delivery: 2 Punctuation – Pauses

Illustrations: Psalm 100 + Mark 8:22-30 + Ephesians 2:11-22

#### Pause to stress

#### Pause for anticipation

#### Pause round a phrase

#### Pause for breaks

#### Extra notes

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Handout 7/16 from Article A49 <https://www.john-truscott.co.uk/Resources/Articles-index>

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### **Delivery: 3 Emphasis – Words to play down**

Illustrations: Psalm 100 + Mark 8:22-30 + Ephesians 2:11-22

#### **Asides**

#### **Dialogue explanation**

#### **Minor words**

#### **Repeated ideas**

#### Extra notes



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Handout 8/16 from Article A49 <https://www.john-truscott.co.uk/Resources/Articles-index>

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### Delivery: 3 Emphasis – Words to play up: contrasts

Illustrations: Psalm 100 + Mark 8:22-30 + Ephesians 2:11-22

#### Contrasting words

#### Contrasting sections

#### Phrases starting 'but'

#### Surprises – 1

#### Surprises – 2





## How to read the Bible out loud

Handout 9/16 from Article A49 <https://www.john-truscott.co.uk/Resources/Articles-index>  
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### Delivery: 3 Emphasis – Words to play up: key ideas

Illustrations: Psalm 100 + Mark 8:22-30 + Ephesians 2:11-22

#### Lists of verbs

#### Key ideas

#### Emotive words

#### Pauses

#### Extra notes



## How to read the Bible out loud

Handout 10/16 from Article A49 <https://www.john-truscott.co.uk/Resources/Articles-index>

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### Preparation: Ten steps to get ready

A suggested 'To Do' list to carry out before the day you read

#### 1: Pray

#### 2: Note the type of literature

#### 3: Study the context of the passage

#### 4: Grasp the mood of the passage

#### 5: Discover the passage's meaning

#### 6: Visualise your listeners

#### 7: Practise the passage

#### 8: Decide to review afterwards

#### 9: Pray again

10: Practical issues – see the next handout



## How to read the Bible out loud

Handout 11/16 from Article A49 <https://www.john-truscott.co.uk/Resources/Articles-index>

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### Preparation: Practical issues

Points of detail which should not be overlooked

#### Movements

#### Appearance

#### Bible

#### Voice

#### Eyes

#### Nerves

#### Start

#### Finish



## How to read the Bible out loud

Handout 12/16 from Article A49 <https://www.john-truscott.co.uk/Resources/Articles-index>

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### Preparation: Six ideas to help you improve

The next steps to take

#### Listen to or watch a recording

#### Ask trusted friends

#### Use a feedback sheet

#### Listen to others

#### Form a group

#### Listen to a pro

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Handout 13/16 from Article [A49 https://www.john-truscott.co.uk/Resources/Articles-index](https://www.john-truscott.co.uk/Resources/Articles-index)

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### **Creativity: Ideas for a fresh approach (1 of 2)**

For those who have mastered the basics

#### **1: Appoint a small team**

#### **2: Change the service order**

#### **3: Use different versions**

#### **4: Involve more than one reader**

#### **5: Asks readers to play characters**

#### **6: Involve the congregation**



## How to read the Bible out loud

Handout 14/16 from Article A49 <https://www.john-truscott.co.uk/Resources/Articles-index>

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### **Creativity: Ideas for a fresh approach (2 of 2)**

For those who have mastered the basics

#### **7: Read a longer passage**

#### **8: Invite people to close their eyes**

#### **9: Add background music or mime**

#### **10: Add images as background**

#### **11: One reader – different voices**

#### **12: Learn the passage off by heart**



## How to read the Bible out loud

Handout 15/16 from Article A49 <https://www.john-truscott.co.uk/Resources/Articles-index>

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### Exercises (1 of 2)

Illustrations: Psalm 100 + Mark 8:22-30 + Ephesians 2:11-22.

#### Exercise 1

Discuss: Who is your favourite news reader on TV or radio? What is it about how they read that make them good at their job?

List some similarities and then one or two key differences between reading the daily news and reading the Good News out loud. What one lesson might we take from this?

#### Exercise 2

Share examples of readers you have heard (without mentioning any names!) who have not been able to let you hear God's word well. What caused this problem: speed, volume, tone, or what? What one lesson might you each learn for yourself as you read?

#### Exercise 3

Read the three passages listed above so that you get familiar with them for when we use them as examples in Part 2. Try them in more than one Bible translation. If each one had a newspaper headline, what would these be?

#### Exercise 4

There are three controls that you can vary: volume, speed and mood. Take each of the three passages and have a go at reading them out loud with some variety in each of these three along the lines already suggested.

If you are in a group each person does this for one of the three passages and the others then comment on what was good (in the use of the three controls) and what might be improved another time.

Be kind to each other!

#### Exercise 5

Now look at one or all of the following passages in turn and analyse how you might vary the volume, speed and mood as you read them through.

If you have time you might then want to try these out in practice too, as with the previous exercise. Isaiah 6:1-8; John 13:1-11; 1 Peter 2:4-10

#### Exercise 6

There are three more variations to have in mind by understanding structure, phrases/lists and pauses. Take each of our three passages and have a go at reading them out loud with some variety in each of these three along the lines already suggested.

If you are in a group each person does this for one of the three passages and the others then comment on what was good (in the use of the three controls) and what might be improved another time.

Be kind to each other!

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### Exercises (2 of 2)

Illustrations: Psalm 100 + Mark 8:22-30 + Ephesians 2:11-22.

#### Exercise 7

Now look at one or all of the following passages and analyse their structure, their phrases/lists and the pauses you might insert. If you have time you might then want to try these out in practice too, as with the previous exercise. 2 Samuel 12:1-10; Acts 2:1-13; 2 Timothy 3:10-17

#### Exercise 8

So there are more ideas for variety of voice, this time through emphasising words or playing them down.

Take each of our three passages and have a go at reading them out loud with some variety in each of these three along the lines already suggested. If you are in a group each person does this for one of the three passages and the others then comment on what was good (in the use of the three controls) and what might be improved another time.

#### Exercise 9

We have now covered our three passages looking at, first, expression, then punctuation and finally emphasis. Now is the time to try all three passages again but this time taking note of all these points. See how you get on!

Next look at one or all of the following passages and analyse how you might emphasise some words while playing others down. Then try to bring in all the three areas we have investigated: expression, punctuation and emphasis, as you read these. Zechariah 9:9-13; Luke 15:1-10; Revelation 3:14-22

By now you should have a good idea of how to vary your voice as you read any passage.

The more you ponder on these points, the easier you will find to do it all naturally. It really is not as complicated as it sounds once you have been introduced to everything you can do with your voice!

#### Exercise 10

If in a group, discuss which points in this list of eight (in Handout 11) you need to take particular note of. Which one do you each find hardest for any reason? What do you do to get over the difficulty? What in practice might you all do to help each other?

#### Exercise 11

Which one or more of the ideas in Handout 12 might you work on? How will you do this?

#### Exercise 12

Discuss which one or more of this list of 12 ideas in Handouts 13 & 14 might be possible to try in your church. If you have more than one, which might come first?

How would you go about this? Who should be responsible for ensuring you do this? What is the next step in the process?