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## Ten Top Tips for Bible Lesson Readers

by Candice M. Coleman, PhD

1. Keep both hands on the book to turn pages more quietly and easily. You'll also be better prepared when a Bible story continues several chapters or even books later.
2. Think about the person in the back row and read to them, not the microphone. Also, do "mic checks" EVERY time you read. Many things can cause settings to change: heat, humidity, the number of people in the room, or a "helpful" church member.
3. Read the Bible Lesson out loud often, even if you don't read for a congregation. Hearing it can give you a different perspective on the ideas.
4. When you read the KJV, pencil in the quotation marks. Because we're so used to seeing them, you'll more quickly and easily determine who's speaking.
5. Use ONE reliable source for Bible pronunciations. There are many "authorities" out there (books, websites, audio), but even Bible scholars often disagree. Stay consistent from service to service and between Readers.
6. Don't pause between ideas that logically belong together. Unfortunately, we can't always rely on the punctuation, so look at the meaning. What might you be implying by stressing that idea or taking that pause?
7. If you see a new way of reading something, make sure your listeners will "get it." If they won't ... don't!
8. Use the tools and techniques of Analytical Reading to give you a "roadmap." However, if God shows you another "path" follow HIM!
9. Use your normal speaking voice. Don't try to be "spiritual." You already ARE!
10. Try to make church a "No Judgment Zone." Don't judge others OR yourself!

**The most important thing is to share the meaning of our Pastor  
the best you can. That's what HEALS.**