

# Training Men To Be Worship Leaders

Lesson 4: Reading Scripture And Serving The Lord Supper



**Discovering God's Word**  
Bible Study Series

## Training Men To Be Worship Leaders

# Lesson 4: Reading Scripture And Serving The Lord Supper

Learn how to be an effective congregational worship leader when you read Scripture and serve the Lord's Supper

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Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

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**About the author:** My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

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**My plea:** It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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# Lesson 4: Reading Scriptures And Serving The Lord Supper

Christian men have the tremendous responsibility and opportunity to lead people in worshiping God. As we continue our training series, we specifically want to consider the public reading of Scripture and serving the Lord's Supper. Like all activities done in worship to God, we should give these our full attention so that we might do them as effectively as possible.

Reading the Scriptures publicly may be done throughout a worship service. It should be done in gospel preaching, in giving an invitation, in teaching Bible class, in making a talk for the Lord's Supper, etc. And, sometimes it is done as its own separate function of the assembly, where Scripture is read and no additional comment is offered. Since this is the way that God communicates with mankind today, this responsibility should be treated with a high degree of reverence. So, you should determine to be as effective as possible at reading God's word to those who desire to hear it.

Then, your effectiveness at serving the Lord's Supper will either help or hinder people remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Perhaps you have the opportunity to direct the worshipers in some thoughts about Christ's sacrifice, to lead a prayer, or simply to assist in passing the two emblems. Regardless, none of these are insignificant tasks and should be treated with the appropriate respect.

With these basic thoughts in mind, let's proceed to consider each of these two activities. First, we want to consider the public reading of Scripture, considering the purpose, some "dos," some "don'ts," and some suggestions for growth regarding reading Scripture. Second, we want to consider serving the Lord's Supper, considering the purpose, some "dos," some "don'ts," and some suggestions for growth regarding serving the Lord's Supper.

## *Reading Scripture*

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Gospel preaching is one of the five activities that congregations do to worship God in their assemblies. Reading Scripture is essential to any gospel preaching (whether in the form of a sermon, an invitation, a Bible class, a talk before the Lord's Supper, etc.). And, as mentioned, sometimes the Scriptures are even read without additional comment offered from the reader. The practice of reading Scripture publicly actually has a long history. For instance, in Joshua 8:34-35, Joshua "read all the words of the law, the blessings and the cursing, according to all that is written in the book of the Law. There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, with the women, the little ones, and the strangers who were living among them." In Nehemiah 8:1-8, Ezra opened the book of the Law and read from it from morning to midday, and all the people stood up when the book was opened. And, even in the New Testament, 1 Thessalonians 5:27 says that epistle was to "be read to all the holy brethren." 1 Timothy 4:13 says, "Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine." So, let's consider some points that will help you become more effective at publicly reading Scripture.

### **The purpose**

The public reading of the Scriptures clearly has authority from God for practice in the assemblies of the church today. So, let's consider the purpose of reading Scripture.

**(1) It is the way God speaks to mankind today.** Of all the things that are done in worshiping

God, there is something quite unique about Scripture reading. Prayer communicates from mankind to God. Singing is directed from mankind to God. The Lord's Supper is remembering what God has done for us. The collection is giving to support God's work. But, reading Scripture gives God "the floor" and allows Him to speak to all the people who are assembled. Although God has spoken to mankind in "various ways" in "time past," He now speaks to us "by His Son" (Hebrews 1:1-2). He does this through the inspired words that are written in the pages of the Bible (1 Corinthians 2:6-16). 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

**(2) To hear God's word without interpretation or explanation.** Although many of the things we will be discussing in this section are *applicable* to any time the Scriptures are read, we specifically want to consider the times that may be designated in an assembly for the sole purpose of reading Scripture. When this is done, it gives everyone present the opportunity to hear God's word without having anyone try to explain or apply it. Although there are opportunities for such, it is also beneficial just to hear God speak without any interruption by mankind! So, Scripture reading is to be done in such a way that causes people to hear and understand what God has said!

### Some "dos"

Whenever you read Scripture, you will want to keep some specific things in mind. These will help you be effective in reading Scripture.

**(1) Remember that you are reading God's word.** You are not reading a mere storybook, a magazine article, the words of a wise man, etc. You are reading the words from the Creator of the universe that are powerful enough to save souls. Romans 1:16 says, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek." These are the words that teach mankind how to be saved from an eternity in Hell and how to go to Heaven. And, these are the words

that will judge us all whenever we stand before Jesus Christ in Judgment (John 12:48; Revelation 20:11-15). Surely, these words must be read with a great degree of reverence!

### **(2) Know what you must read in advance.**

If at all possible, find out what the reading will be in advance. Although this may not always be possible, it is ideal to be able to practice your reading at home rather than just in the place of the assembly. Regardless, try to put yourself in the situation of having as much advanced notice as possible. Do not arrive late, get the reading at the last minute, and read the verse for the first time in front of those who are trying to worship God acceptably!

**(3) Practice your reading.** This goes back to the principle: Proper preparation prevents poor performance. You should practice your reading enough that you are sure you have it down properly. You should practice the reading until you understand the reading yourself and can read the passage in the way that best communicates God's message to others.

### **(4) Look up words you don't know.**

Although accidents happen and words get forgotten, try to keep it at a minimum. You can reduce your chances of being embarrassed by mispronouncing words and names by looking them up ahead of time or asking someone who knows. Another reason you should do this is to understand the passage. If you do not know how to pronounce a word, you may not understand what it means either. If this is the case, you are not getting the most that you can out of the reading. And, if you mispronounce the word, it can hinder others from understanding the meaning of the Scripture also.

**(5) Arrive early.** If you are scheduled in advance to read Scripture publicly, don't wait to the last minute or be late to arrive at the assembly. In order to help things be done decently and orderly, be early (if at all possible). If you cannot, arrange to trade with someone who can be early. Be considerate of your brethren, particularly the brother who is making the announcements and trying to make sure that all of the duties for the assembly are assigned properly so that the services will be conducted in decency and order. Furthermore, if you are not in the

habit of arriving early, you will rarely be asked to fill-in to read the Scriptures and help your brethren fulfill that responsibility.

**(6) Know when it's your turn.** Be familiar with the order of services. If you are not familiar with the order, ask someone who is and learn when you need to read. Listen carefully to the announcements to hear whether any changes have been made to the order of services that would affect you. And, when it is your turn, anticipate the time and walk to the front of the auditorium (or wherever the reading should take place) so that your brethren do not have to wait for you to walk from your seat.

**(7) Have the Scripture marked.** As you are walking to the front of the auditorium or when you are standing before the worshipers is not the time to open your Bible and look for the verse you are preparing to read (unless you have many verses to read, such as in an invitation or sermon). If there is only one verse or a few verses, have it/them marked. It is embarrassing to not be able to find the passage you are supposed to read or to read the wrong passage. And, it takes away the focus that should be on God's word.

**(8) Make sure you have the attention of the audience.** Don't just hurry through the reading as if it is an insignificant part of the assembly. Make sure that you have the attention of the worshipers and give them an opportunity to focus their minds on the reading. For instance, Nehemiah 8:5 says that Ezra opened the book of the Law "in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above the people [on a wooden platform that had been made for the occasion, verse 4]; and when he opened it, all the people stood up." As the one who is reading God's word, make sure that you are in a place where the people can see and hear you so that the people can properly hear and reverence the word of God that is being spoken to them. Congregations could even imitate the example of the people in Nehemiah 8 by having the people stand for the reading in order to show respect for God's word (though it is not necessary).

**(9) Speak to be understood.** Your reading should take place wherever it is most helpful for people to hear and understand the reading. For, the

public reading of Scripture is of little profit if the worshipers cannot hear and understand it. So, utilize the proper audio equipment (i.e. stand directly behind a microphone) whenever it is available. Speak loud enough so that the person who is the furthest away from you and the hardest of hearing can understand you. Be careful to properly enunciate your words.

**(10) Announce the verse(s) clearly.** Make all of the worshipers aware of which Scripture you are going to read. Announce the Scripture you will read in a way that everyone will hear. You may something like, "If you would like to follow along in your Bible, the Scripture reading for today is Matthew 5, verses 3 through 12." Repeat if you think it is necessary.

**(11) Announce the translation.** As the one who is reading, you should recognize that there are likely many different translations that are in use among the people who are listening to you read. To avoid any confusion, you should announce the translation you will be reading from (though you should *not* tell them why you have chosen that specific translation). So, perhaps you say, "If you would like to follow along in your Bible, the Scripture reading for today is Matthew 5, verses 3 through 12. I will be reading from the *New King James Version* of the Bible."

**(12) Allow time to follow along.** If you are inviting people to follow along in their Bibles, give them enough time to get there. Perhaps you will repeat the Scripture location in order to give them time and remind them of the location. However, if the reading is on a screen that is visible to everyone, perhaps you will not need to pause for people to locate the reading. Use your best judgment about what is appropriate in your situation and give it consideration *prior* to going before the congregation.

**(13) Observe the punctuation.** Punctuation is like road signs for the English language. It tells us when to stop, when to take a brief pause, when to show excitement, etc. Although the punctuation has been added by the Bible translators, they have tried to add the appropriate punctuation. So, you should be careful to observe the punctuation marks that have been added. A period (.) means you should stop. A

question mark (?) means you should form what you are reading as a question. A comma (,) means you should slightly pause before continuing. A semi-colon (;) means you should pause longer than a comma but shorter than a period. A colon (:) means you should pause for as long or a slightly longer than a period and should read what follows it as a list, example, or explanation to what has been said. An exclamation mark (!) means that you should read what is said with a strong feeling (i.e. excitement, surprise, anger, etc.) and should judge your pause based on what has been said. Parentheses [( )] typically mean that what is inside of them offer further explanation to what has been said and should be read accordingly. An apostrophe (‘) often denotes ownership and should be read to reflect ownership. Quotation marks (“”) mean that someone is speaking or being quoted and should be read to reflect this. A hyphen (-) joins things together. A dash (--) is used for extra emphasis and should be read with greater emphasis than a comma, period, etc.

**(14) Read with the proper feeling.** The Bible is a book that relates to the salvation of every person on this earth. Therefore, it is not an emotionless book. There are points of sadness, joy, anger, surprise, etc. In addition, there are different types of books in the Bible. In the Old Testament, the books of Genesis through Deuteronomy are generally considered to be books of Law. Joshua through Esther are generally considered books of history. Job through Song of Solomon are generally considered books of poetry. Isaiah through Malachi are generally considered books of prophecy. In the New Testament, Matthew through John are generally considered the four gospels that tell us the story of Jesus on earth. Acts is generally considered a book of history. Romans through Jude are generally considered to be letters. And, Revelation is generally considered to be a book of prophecy. You should know the passage well enough to know the kind of voice you should use. For instance, you should read a prayer offered from the book of Psalms in a different tone than reading a list of genealogy in the book of Numbers. Preparing your reading and understanding the passage in its context beforehand will help you do this. Read it as it would naturally be said in normal conversation.

## Some “don’ts”

In addition to the things that you should do whenever you read Scripture, consider some things you ought to avoid. Refusing to do these will help you be effective in reading Scripture.

**(1) Use a Bible that is unfamiliar to you.** It is far too common for men to be asked to do a reading at the last minute and a brother (who did not even bring his Bible to the services) grabs the first Bible he can get his hands on (maybe his wife’s or one that is in the pew) and read from it. Although there may be rare exceptions when this has to happen, it can cause confusion and embarrassment. The text in that Bible may be too small, it may be a different translation than you are used to reading from and causes you to stumble over the verses, and it may add extra difficulty to finding the verse on the page because it is laid out differently than the one you are used to.

**(2) Use an unnatural tone.** It can be tempting to read and speak in public with a different tone than you typically use. However, you should use a tone that is as natural as possible (that you would use in normal conversation if you were saying what you are reading). That said, you do need to project your voice in a way that will be heard. Particularly if you are not being amplified, you will need to speak louder than normal (though this may not be necessary with the proper amplification).

**(3) Be monotone.** The Bible is not a boring book. Don’t make it boring to others! Although everyone has a different personality and some do not like to show any emotion in front of others, effective Bible reading needs feeling! Not only does being monotone (not changing the sound of your voice) cause people to lose interest in what you are saying, but it will make the Bible more difficult to be understood. Just think about whether you like and profit more from hearing the Bible read with feeling or monotone.

**(4) Read too fast or too slow.** Reading too fast will cause people to struggle just to keep up with you. Even though they may hear the words that you read (barely), they will not have the time to *understand* the words that you say. Then, reading too

slow may cause individuals to lose interest in what you are reading or give their minds more opportunity to wander. Rather than hearing God speak to them through the Scriptures, your slowness in reading hinders their understanding of God's word. Now, please note that this is not an insult to anyone who reads fast because of nerves or reads slow because of difficulty reading. Just do the best that you can do! Reading the Scripture several times in advance will help you overcome both of these and read at an effective and conversational pace.

**(5) Take the responsibility lightly.** It is common for Scripture reading to be one of the first responsibilities a man is assigned because, in many ways, it is one of the easiest to do. But, just because Scripture reading can be an easy task to complete does *not* mean that it is insignificant in worship. Whether you are a new Christian reading for the first time or a mature Christian who has done a great deal in leading the worship, you should always approach reading God's word with a great degree of reverence.

**(6) Use a Bible that does not give the right meaning of the passage.** Perhaps this will be difficult to know for many new Christians. But, as you grow in Christ and learn about different Bible translations, you will recognize that all translations have some flaws in them (some more than others). Do your best to study the passage and know whether you are using a translation that gives the accurate meaning of the passage before you read it before the worshipers. You would do well to pick a translation that is widely known for its accuracy.

## Suggestions for growth

Whether you are just beginning to read Scripture publicly or have done so for quite some time, there is room for growth. Consider the following suggestions.

**(1) Read the Bible often.** The best preparation for the public reading of Scripture is privately reading the Scriptures and listening to other people read the Bible. Through these, you will become more familiar with what God says and how God says it. And, you can listen to how other people read God's words and evaluate the effectiveness of it.

**(2) Practice reading out loud in front of a mirror.** Stand up in front of a bathroom mirror (or some other kind of mirror) if you are just beginning and read the Bible to it. Evaluate your tone of voice, the volume of your voice (remembering that you are not in a large auditorium), and your posture. Make changes wherever is appropriate.

**(3) Learn the context of the verse.** A verse read out of context can make a point God never intended to make. So, read the entire chapter/section of the verse in preparing for your reading in order to understand the passage. This will help you understand what tone is appropriate.

**(4) Practice reading different kinds of passages aloud.** Choose passages from all of the sections of the Bible we previously discussed. Practice reading each one in an appropriate tone.

**(5) Practice reading the different punctuation marks.** As you choose various passages to read aloud, observe the punctuation marks. Practice the pauses and emphasis you give them. Evaluate the effectiveness of what you are doing.

**(6) Get a Bible pronunciation guide.** There are many Bible names of people and places that are difficult to pronounce and cannot be found in a standard English dictionary. Find a guide for how to pronounce the names. This will help you avoid much embarrassment and be able to read with more confidence.

## *Serving The Lord's Supper*

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The Lord's Supper is an act of worship that Jesus Christ instituted (read Matthew 26:26-29). Local churches assembled together in New Testament times on the first day of the week to partake of the two emblems that compose the Lord's Supper. For instance, Acts 20:7 says, "Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight." 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 also demonstrates the importance of partaking of the Lord's Supper in

a way that pleases God. While the Scriptures do not specify how the Lord's Supper is to be served to the worshipers, it is common and appropriate today for the worshipers to remain seated while trays are carried to each one, containing the elements. So, let's consider some points that will help you become more effective at serving the Lord's Supper.

## The purpose

The Lord's Supper is a necessary part of the worship local churches offer to God on the first day of the week. So, let's consider the purpose of the Lord's Supper.

### (1) To remember Christ's broken body.

When Jesus was observing the Passover in advance of His death with His apostles, He instituted the Lord's Supper. Matthew 26:26 says, "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body.'" The unleavened bread is representative of Christ's body that was broken through all of the sufferings He would experience leading up to and including the cross (compare with 1 Corinthians 11:23-24). So, it should cause all the worshipers to remember the beatings He took and the physical pain that was experienced in His body.

### (2) To remember Christ's blood.

Continuing to institute this memorial feast, Christ "took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins'" (Matthew 26:27-28). The fruit of the vine (grape juice) is used to represent the blood that Christ shed in His sacrifice. This blood was that of the perfect Lamb sent by God to be the sacrifice for sins. It gives all people the opportunity to have the forgiveness of sins and it brought in the new and better covenant (as opposed to the Law of Moses). So, it should cause all the worshipers to remember the blood that Jesus Christ shed while He was being put to death, both prior to the cross and while He was on the cross.

**(3) To remember this sacrifice was made for each one.** The Lord's Supper does not just cause us to remember some historical event. Instead, it requires all the worshipers to recognize that Christ's

body was broken for each one (1 Corinthians 11:24) and that His blood was shed for each one to be forgiven and take part of the new covenant (Matthew 26:28). Therefore, the eternal salvation of each person who has sinned is dependent upon Christ's sacrifice. This point in worship should properly direct the minds of each worshiper to this very important event and its relevance for every person.

**(4) To give each one the opportunity to partake of the two emblems.** As you serve the Lord's Supper, you are involved in helping people partake of the two emblems Jesus Christ has given. Therefore, you are helping them remember all that the Lord's Supper represents.

## Some "dos"

Whenever you help serve the Lord's Supper, you will want to keep some specific things in mind. These will help you be effective in serving the Lord's Supper.

**(1) Arrive early.** Preparing for the Lord's Supper takes some coordination that must happen prior to the beginning of services. So, walking in at the last minute or late is unacceptable (unless you have given prior notice or if it is unavoidable). This will create confusion as to who will be helping serve the Lord's Supper. Furthermore, if you do not arrive early, you will never be asked to fill-in for someone else.

**(2) Know when it's your turn.** At some congregations, it is helpful for all the men who will be serving the Lord's Supper to come to the front slightly before the time to serve (i.e. prior to the song that may be sung before the Lord's Supper). This often makes it easier for everyone to know their place and to conduct things in an orderly fashion. Regardless of whether this is done, you need to know when it is your opportunity to serve and be prepared in advance.

**(3) Remember the specific order.** The Scriptures give a specific order the elements of the Lord's Supper are to be taken in. It is always the unleavened bread first and the fruit of the vine second. Don't get these mixed up and serve them in reverse order.



**(4) Know who will do what.** The time you are standing before the congregation to help them remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ is *not* the time to figure out who is willing to do what. This can cause confusion and will not give men the proper time to prepare to serve in that capacity. Know in advance who will be offering comments, who will be leading the prayer for the bread, and who will be leading the prayer for the cup. For, there may even be someone who is willing to help serve, but not say a prayer or offer comments. You need to have all of this figured out in advance.

**(5) Help people focus their minds.** It is appropriate for some comments to be made prior to taking the Lord's Supper in order to help the worshipers prepare their minds and remember Jesus' sacrifice. These comments should be taken seriously and prepared in advance. Take some time through the week (if you know you will be making this talk) and consider the most appropriate and effective way you can lead people in this memorial supper. You can use the entire Bible to talk about Jesus' sacrifice and what it means for people today. Look for as many relevant passages as you can find and choose one (or an appropriate number) to accomplish your goal. But, remember that your goal at this time is to help people focus on the sacrifice of Jesus and its significance.

**(6) Keep the comments time appropriate.** You are probably aware of what is appropriate for the length of your comments. There is no amount of time specified by the Scriptures. But, if the worshipers are used to some time being spent to prepare their minds prior to partaking of the Lord's Supper and you offer just a quick comment of little substance, they could feel robbed of worshipping in the way they had hoped. And, if your comments are significantly longer than what the worshipers are used to, you can harm their worship by causing them to wonder if they will ever get to partake of the Lord's Supper. If you are unsure, you should talk to the elders (or the men, in the absence of elders) about what is appropriate for the length of your comments.

**(7) Keep the prayers relevant to the activity.** Jesus (when He instituted the Lord's Supper) taught us to pray prior to partaking of each emblem. But, these were not prayers about just any

concern. Instead, these prayers were for the purpose of thanking God for the thing (i.e. the unleavened bread and fruit of the vine). So, these prayers do not need to be very long. Instead, they need to be focused on the sacrifice of Christ and to thank God for the emblem.

**(8) Know how to work with your partners.** Every congregation has a slightly different procedure for how the men serve the Lord's Supper. Talk with the leadership of the congregation (i.e. the elders) or someone who is experienced in how the congregation carries out this activity. Know what each person is responsible for so that no one gets missed and you do not serve those who have already been served. Be watching your partners (especially those working closest to you) and know what's going on.

**(9) Use both hands as you pass the emblems.** Usually, the trays that are used to serve the Lord's Supper are not that heavy. But, it is still best to use two hands whenever possible. You could trip. You could not have a good enough grip with one hand. Anything can happen. Using two hands will help you make sure that you have a good hold on the trays and helps to prevent some accidents.

**(10) Expect the unexpected.** As I mentioned, anything could happen. There could be a child who grabs at the tray when you are not looking. The grape juice could spill. There could be a larger crowd than normal and run out of bread or juice. Someone could let go of the tray before you are quite ready to take it. Just spend a little time thinking through various situations that you could encounter while serving the Lord's Supper and consider how you would respond. Try to anticipate as much as possible and do not get to flustered when things happen.

**(11) Make sure everyone gets served.** If you know how to work with your partners, it should be fairly easy to make sure that those who are in the auditorium get served. However, you also need to be watching for anyone who may have been in the restroom when you began serving or in a cry room/nursery. Talk with the men of the congregation or elders to learn about what you should do to serve parents in a nursery or others who are not seated in

the auditorium. You do not want to miss anyone who wishes to partake.

**(12) Stay focused on Christ.** Whenever you are serving the Lord's Supper you are focused on many different things. But, you must still do your very best to worship God. You also must partake of the emblems and try to keep your mind focused on Christ while you are serving.

### Some "don'ts"

In addition to the things that you should do whenever you serve the Lord's Supper, consider some things you ought to avoid. Refusing to do these will help you be effective in serving the Lord's Supper.

**(1) Preach a sermon.** In most congregations, the talk before the Lord's Supper is a brief one (rarely exceeding five minutes). It is usually not the appropriate time for a long talk and such could do more harm than good. If you want to preach, that can likely be arranged – and you can even preach on a subject related to the Lord's Supper. A good rule of thumb for the Lord's Supper talk would be to select one passage (often of no more than five verses) and discuss a significant point or two from it. Again, you may want to discuss this with the elders or men of the congregation.

**(2) Use stories, humor, and illustrations that take the focus off Jesus.** While there may be an appropriate use of stories, humor, and illustrations in teaching the gospel (though they should be used sparingly), it is far less likely that these would be appropriate for the Lord's Supper. Remember that it is very somber to reflect on how Christ loved us enough to die for us when we needed a way to be saved from our own sin! All of your comments must reflect the purpose of the Lord's Supper and keep the focus on Jesus' sacrifice – or else they are harming those who are trying to worship.

**(3) Use the same talk every week.** In my experience at listening to men give talks for the Lord's Supper, it is common for just a few passages to be used the majority of weeks. Some of these passages are: Isaiah 53, Matthew 26:26-29 (or another passage about the institution of the Lord's Supper), any of the gospel records about Jesus'

death, and 1 Corinthians 11:17-34. While these are great texts and should be used on occasion, the Bible says a great deal more about the sacrifice of Jesus Christ than just what these few passages teach! Utilize these other passages and you will help the weekly observance of the Lord's Supper always be fresh to the members of the church.

**(4) Use vain repetition in prayer.** This point is, perhaps, more difficult than with other prayers, but it still needs made. Do not just recite words without any true meaning or sincerity when you thank God for the bread and the cup. Although there are only so many ways to say "thank you" for these things, make sure your words are sincere every time!

**(5) Use this time to refute denominational error.** Unless this was, perhaps, the only opportunity for someone in the audience to learn the truth about a matter pertaining to the Lord's Supper, this is not the best time to refute a denominational error. Leave that for a sermon. Remember that the Lord's Supper must be focused on Jesus' sacrifice, not on the Catholic doctrine of transubstantiation (which says the bread and fruit of the vine becomes the body and blood of Jesus) or the popular error in denominations of only partaking of the Lord's Supper monthly, yearly, or on a day other than the first day of the week!

**(6) Use words unfamiliar to the audience.** Any time you talk with people and try to teach them anything about the gospel, you must be relatable and understandable. Using words people do not understand will not accomplish this goal. Even if the word is a Bible word (i.e. propitiation), use it, but then explain what it means!

**(7) Be a distraction.** Although this is true regarding every way you could lead people in worship, I think this point is particularly relevant here. For instance, I am thinking about men who may be standing before the congregation while another man makes a talk pertaining to the Lord's Supper. While they have nothing to do, they could easily distract people (i.e. by rattling keys in their pockets, looking disengaged, swaying back and forth in a very noticeable kind of way, etc.). Or, even while serving the Lord's Supper, people could try to interact with children or some other thing that would distract

others. So, keep your purpose in mind and do nothing to hinder that purpose.

**(8) Refuse to serve anyone who wants to participate or force anyone to participate.** You are serving the Lord's Supper. It's not your place at that time to tell someone they either should or should not partake of the Lord's Supper. You must offer it to anyone and force it on no one. The time for conversation about such is privately and after the services have concluded. In addition, if someone is not right with God, please recognize that they are in no greater danger if they go ahead and partake of the Lord's Supper.

### **Suggestions for growth**

Whether you are just beginning to serve the Lord's Supper or have done so for quite some time, there is room for growth. Consider the following suggestions.

**(1) Make a list of passages that pertain to Jesus' sacrifice.** As you study the Bible, you would do well to keep a list of passages that could be used to make a talk around the Lord's table. Keep the list in a place where you can easily access it and add to it. This will help you always have some fresh ideas for your talks and are not stuck in any "rut."

**(2) Talk to brothers who have experience serving the Lord's Supper.** I have said that anything can happen when you are serving the Lord's Supper. One of the best pieces of advice in preparing for these things is to talk to your brothers in Christ about their experiences. Find out what they have either seen or experienced and talk about how it was handled (or how it should have been handled).

## ***Conclusion***

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I'm sure that there is much more we could discuss relating to the public reading of Scripture and serving the Lord's Supper. But, I hope that these have provided some useful tips and guidelines in these areas. In reading Scripture and serving the Lord's Supper, you should strive to be as effective as you can possibly be in serving God and your

brethren. So, you are encouraged to put these things into practice and work to grow every time you are given the opportunity to lead in these ways. May God bless you in your service!

## ***Study Questions***

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How does your effectiveness at reading Scripture and serving the Lord's Supper impact those who desire to worship God?

### **1. Reading Scripture**

What is the purpose of reading Scripture?

List some things that you should do whenever you read Scripture.

List some things you should not do whenever you Scripture.

List some things you can do to grow at reading Scripture.

### **2. Serving The Lord's Supper**

What is the purpose of serving the Lord's Supper?

List some things you should do whenever you serve the Lord's Supper.

List some things you should not do whenever you serve the Lord's Supper.

List some things you can do to grow at serving the Lord's Supper.