A seat by the blue door

Can a guest follow a spoken change of plans in their own language? Use this three-minute fictional church welcome to check the booth feed, caption meaning, reading pace and published Scripture on one guest phone.

Run the rehearsal

1. **Choose a rehearsal setting.** Use an authorized test service outside worship. Choose the language the speaker will use and one language your bilingual reader understands. This script uses English as its source. Open the church's attendee link on the reader's phone and select the target language.
2. **Use the booth feed you intend to use on Sunday.** Have a consenting speaker read the script through the pulpit mic, or play the supplied audio through a mixer input that reaches the booth feed. Speak or play a short test sound. Check both the channel meter and what the phone receives. Playing a file on a laptop by itself may leave the mixer silent.
3. **Give the reader only the scorecard.** On the first pass they read the captions in their target language, without the script or source audio if practical. They write what they understood before the facilitator shows the intended meaning. A paraphrase can carry the meaning accurately.
4. **Repeat for timing.** Reuse the same recording, phone, language and network. An observer who understands the target language watches the phone and hears the source. Start one stopwatch as playback begins. For each timing cue record the end of the spoken phrase and the first moment its meaning is clear on screen. A second reader can record the times. Log a miss in words if the thought never arrives.
5. **Check the reference.** Record the book, chapter, verse and edition label that actually appear. Compare the passage with the named published Bible. Record a labeled fallback, a different passage or no card exactly as observed. When finished, end the test service.

Use a fresh scorecard for each run. If you record a human voice, capture a screen or share a result, first agree with everyone involved about the use, storage and audience. A clean test account and the fictional script keep real congregants' details out of the exercise.

The supplied track uses a synthetic English voice so different readers can test the same input. It is a rehearsal aid. A speaker using your church's mic adds the room, speaking style and handoffs that your guests will actually encounter.

Speaker and facilitator · Sheet 2

Read aloud

The four start times match the practice track. On a live read, allow a little silence at the end of each block. Only the text under each time is spoken.

0:00

Good morning, friends. If you came in through the blue door today, you may have noticed a chair standing by itself. It belongs to the welcome table. Our new volunteer, Mara Bell, moved it there before anyone arrived. She wanted to see the entrance from the height of a person sitting down. From that chair she could see the coat hooks and the stairs, but the little arrow pointing into this room was hidden behind a tall vase.

0:45

Mara asked a friend to carry the vase back to the table. Then she sat down again. This time she could read the arrow. She left the chair where it was while she went to find a pencil. Here is the change for next week. The blue door will not be locked on Saturday. You can come in that way. If you bring a dish to share, please take it to the kitchen before you take your coat off.

1:30

Inside the kitchen there will be two baskets. Leave the bread in the green basket and the clean towels in the white one. Last month we put everything in the same basket and someone carried the bread upstairs with the washing. There was plenty to eat in the end. But a guest who had come early to help spent the first part of the meal looking for a loaf someone else had already sliced.

2:15

Our reading for today is Hebrews chapter thirteen, verse two. Take a moment to find that passage in the Bible you read. Think of a time when someone made it easy for you to enter a room full of strangers. Was it a clear sign, a familiar voice, or a place to set down what you were carrying? As you leave this morning, look at the entrance from that chair. What would you move before our next guest arrives?

Open after the reader has answered

Mara Bell moved the chair. The blue door will be open on Saturday. Bread goes in green and towels in white. The reader should be able to distinguish both basket contents. The spoken reference is Hebrews 13:2. Check the displayed verse against its published edition.

Bilingual reader and timing observer · Sheet 3

What came through?

Blank worksheet. Enter observed answers in your own words. Mark anything you could not tell. On paper, write on the lines; on screen, type and print before closing the file. The kit sends no answers anywhere.

Date and run ID

Source → reading language

Phone, network and audio input

Track or speaker; reviewer initials (optional)

First pass · What did you understand?

Who moved the chair?

Which day was mentioned, and would you be able to enter by the blue door?

Where should you put the bread and the towels?

Which reference and edition appeared? Did the verse match that published edition?

Second pass · When could you follow?

Use elapsed seconds from the same stopwatch. For each cue, subtract the spoken end from the time the reader first has the complete meaning. These are observed reader timings. If the text is missing, write “didn’t appear.”

Door announcement · spoken end / readable meaning / difference

Basket instructions · spoken end / readable meaning / difference

Debrief together

After seeing the script, identify a meaning that survived or changed and the line that showed it.

Could you keep up? Name one point where pace helped or interrupted your reading, and one change to try.