



NO BIBLE SUNDAY?

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Sermon resource

Now this I understand!

Description:

Quotes about the importance of the Bible from people around the world.

Aim:

Help people to understand why everyone needs to have and use God's word.

What's needed:

Nothing

Time:

Depends on use

Quotes:

"In the past I gave my congregation crumbs from God's Word when I preached in Lingala. Now I preach in our own language, Ngbaka. I can give them a full meal! I never used to pray in Ngbaka, but now I do, and I have a new communication with God. I can communicate God's love without barriers. People have a new hunger for God's Word and they have new riches to use as they grow".

This was said by a well educated pastor of a local church in the Democratic Republic of Congo

"When I read the Word in the national language, I don't know if I'm going toward the land or going to the sea. When I read it in my language, God makes the way clear."

This was said by a translation checker in Asia

"Scripture use is necessary. I don't know how a Christian who doesn't have the Word of God can live in life."

This was said by Jean, a student in a literacy course in Cameroon

"Today is a joyous day for me as I complete this literacy training because I can now read. I read my Borana Bible every night."

This was said by a Borana speaker in Kenya

"I don't know what that New Testament has, but the first day that I played it [on audio tape] in the church, a whole family accepted Christ. I believe it is because the Bible itself says that the Word of God has power. Since that happened, wherever I go, the New Testament in Kekchi goes with me. Almost in every new place that I play it, several people accept Christ--the most beautiful of all is that it is in our own language."

This was said by a Kekchi pastor in Guatemala

“We work hard in our fields to get food, but that food will all be done in one day. God’s word stays forever.”

This was said by a Kuo man in Chad.

“Now that we have God’s word in Kasem, we almost think we are in heaven!”

This was said by a Kasem pastor in Ghana.

“I had memorized these verses in Spanish, but I had no idea what they meant. Now here they are in my own language. That has made me really understand the word of God.”

This was said by a Chontal man in Mexico.

“I can understand French with my ear, and Swahili with my mine, but my own language I understand with my heart.”

This was said by a pastor in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Optional ways to adapt this idea:

Use them within the sermon: it is always good to sprinkle a sermon with stories and illustrations. Use a few of these quotes in that way as part of the sermon on *No Bible Sunday*.

Involve the congregation: put each quote onto a different slip of paper. Give the slips out to various people in the congregation before the service begins. At a selected time say: “*We have had the Bible in English for so long that it is easy for us to forget how wonderful it is to get it for the first time. Let’s remind ourselves how that feels as we listen to the words of people from around the world who have just gotten the Bible in their own language.*” Then have the people with the quotes stand up one at a time and read out the statement. Conclude with a prayer of thanks to God for the difference the Bible makes in our lives.

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