



NO BIBLE SUNDAY?

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Prayer resource

Unlock the Bible!

Description:

Unlock and unchain the Bible as you pray for those without it.

Aim:

To help people understand the power that prayer has in breaking barriers.

What's needed:

Two people, a Bible, 3 locks, 3 keys and 3 chains.

Time:

4 minutes

Instructions:

1. This prayer activity works best if you used the resource "Lock up the Bible!" earlier in the service. If you did this then you will already have a Bible wrapped in three chains and locks at the front of your church. If you did not do this activity, then before the service wrap a Bible in three sets of locks and chains and leave it where it can be easily accessed when needed.
2. Say: "As we move into our prayer time I am going to ask you to do something unusual. As I pray, I'd like you to keep your eyes open and watch this Bible."
3. Hold up the locked and chained Bible and say: "Heavenly Father, we thank you that you want us to know you. We thank you that you are the one who chose to have a relationship with us first. And we thank you that you have given us your Bible so that we can read and understand it and learn more about your love for us. But today, Lord, we are reminded that hundreds of millions of people don't have easy access to your word like we do."
4. Have your assistant unlock the first lock and remove the first chain as you pray: "Dear Father, first we want to pray for those who have never received your words of life in their own language. Provide the people with the right skills and abilities to live among these people, to take the time to write down their language, to find the right words to say exactly what your Bible says, but in their mother-tongue. Help those receiving the newly translated Scriptures to understand them, to receive them, and to be transformed by them. Lord, use your word to set them free!" Drop the first chain to the floor.
5. Have your assistant unlock the second lock and remove the second chain as you pray: "Next, Abba Father, we ask that you will tear down the barriers that separate people from being able to read your word. Where your word exists, but people cannot read it, bring teachers and literacy classes. Help people who have never before been able to look at a page and know what it says to be able to look at your Bible and understand the glorious things written there for them. Provide the practical things needed for this to happen – blackboards, reading books, benches, lamps and so on. But mostly Lord we pray, use your word to set people free!" Drop the second chain to the floor.
6. Have your assistant unlock the third lock and remove the third chain as you pray: "Jesus, we know from the Bible that you always intercede for the saints before the Father. So we join with you now in praying for the millions being persecuted even as we meet safely here today. We ask Lord that their witness will be a fire that cannot be put out and that millions more will come to you as people see them respond to their suffering with blessings instead of curses. Help them to remember your word and live it day to day. Give them access to the Bible in miraculous ways. Lord, use your word to set them free!" Drop the last chain to the floor.

7. Open the Bible, hold it up and pray: *“Lord in heaven, we praise you that it is your will for your word to be open. For people here in the UK and around the world to be able to read and understand it and apply it day by day and moment by moment in our lives. Thank you that this is your idea – not ours. We look forward to the day when people from every tribe and tongue and nation will worship before you in heaven. Dear Father, we pray in faith that you will bring that to pass soon. Thank you again for your word. Help those of us that are here in this place today to be faithful to use it and share it with those around us. In the name of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.*
8. Leave the open Bible in a prominent place at the front of the church.

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