



NO BIBLE SUNDAY?

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As People Enter resource

No Bibles allowed here!

Description:

Bibles are confiscated as people enter the service as a way of setting the scene for No Bible Sunday.

Aim:

Help people to experience what it is like to not be allowed to have a Bible.

What's needed:

Enough people to guard the doors to your sanctuary, badges, post-it notes and pens, somewhere to store Bibles.

Time:

As long as it takes your congregation to enter the sanctuary.

Instructions:

1. In advance, find enough volunteers to guard all the entrances to your sanctuary (this would be a great job for your youth group – see note below). Provide these people with badges reading “No Bible Police”.
2. As each person, couple or family enters, the guards should stop them and ask if they have brought a Bible to today's service. Occasionally they can search someone to be sure they aren't smuggling in a small Bible.
3. If the person has a Bible, the No Bible Police should confiscate it, explaining only that for today this church is a Bible-free zone. Assure them that they can have the Bible back at the end of the service. Write the owner's name on a post-it note and attach it to the front cover of the Bible (this will make returning them a lot easier later!). Put the Bibles in a safe place until the service is over.
4. If the person has not brought a Bible, the No Bible Police should congratulate them on not bringing one and helping to keep your church a Bible-free zone.
5. Continue until everyone has entered the sanctuary (consider using *Let My Bibles Go!* activity later)
6. At the end of the service, be sure to announce where people should go to reclaim their Bibles. Have the No Bible Police there to return them and thank people for being so cooperative earlier.

Optional ways to adapt this idea:

- **Use the young people:** Encourage them to design their own badges, arm bands, uniform, etc. Be sure that the youth leader is around to keep them under control though!
- **Celebrate the confiscation:** have the No Bible Police parade down the aisles with the confiscated Bibles. This will show how it feels to live in a country where Christianity is suppressed.
- **Lock up the Bibles:** place all the Bibles in a cage at the front during the service as a visual reminder that they are not being used today.
- **Use bookmarks:** instead of using post-it notes, write people's names onto *No Bible Sunday* bookmarks. Leave these in the Bibles when you return them to serve as a reminder of the event.

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