



NO BIBLE SUNDAY?

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Introduction resource

Now that the Bible is gone...

Description:

Bibles are confiscated and people have to try and remember Scripture passages.

What's needed:

People to collect Bibles; list of books of the Bible on OHP film

Aim:

Help people understand what it is like to rely only on memorised Scriptures.

Time:

7 minutes

Instructions:

1. In advance, find enough volunteers to collect Bibles at the appropriate time. Provide these people with badges reading "No Bible Police".
2. After everyone is seated, announce that today is *No Bible Sunday* and that everyone will have to surrender their Bibles. Have people pass them to the end of the rows and have them collected by the No Bible Police.
3. Say: *"What has just happened to you really does happen today, in countries where Christianity is illegal or persecuted. Since people never know when their Bibles might be confiscated, and how long they will then have to wait to get another one, they often memorise a lot more Scripture than we do. So today we are going to do an experiment. We are going to see if between all of us here we have memorised just one verse from every book in the Bible."*
4. Have an assistant put the list of all the books of the Bible onto the OHP and project it up where people can see it. Say: *"Here is what we are going to do. You see the list of the books of the Bible. I'll read a name off that list. If anyone has a verse memorised from that book, stand up. I'll call on you and as soon as we have a verse we'll cross off that book and go on to the next one. Then we'll see how many books we can show we remember at least one verse from. Okay?"*
5. Say: *"Let's begin with Genesis. Who knows a verse?"* Someone ought to know *"In the beginning God..."* So things should start well. Have your assistant cross off that book and go on to Exodus.
6. Expect things to get a little dire in the minor prophets. If it is getting too depressing, jump forward to the New Testament.
7. When you have finished, or things seem to be beginning to drag, say: *"Scripture challenges us to store up God's word in our hearts. Unfortunately we often just don't quite get around to doing it (we're too busy with important things like going to work, cleaning house, watching football...?). But one thing is sure – if we memorise the Bible, no one can ever take that away from us. There are stories of people in places like China memorising entire chapters or even books of the Bible. When they faced persecution and hardship, they said that it was this word of God that gave them strength. They KNOW the power of the Bible. Do we?"*
8. Continue with the service.

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