



# NO BIBLE SUNDAY?

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Sermon resource

## Obstacles to the Bible

**Description:**

A Powerpoint presentation.

**Aim:**

Help people to understand the main obstacles to people using the Bible.

**What's needed:**

The Powerpoint presentation and a projector.

**Time:**

5 minutes

**Script to accompany the Powerpoint presentation:**

1. Hopefully all of us here would say that we love and respect the Bible. We would agree that it is God's primary way of speaking to his people. We would say that everyone needs to have and use it.(Click) We would say that God wants to speak to people everywhere through his word, even as far away as Africa (Click), Latin America (Click), but even as close as here. God has important things to tell us through his Bible.
2. BUT, have you ever thought about the things that can get in the way of people understanding and using Scripture? For example, people can't understand the Bible if it is (Click) in the wrong language. If you only speak English, and the New Testament was only available in the original Greek, it wouldn't help you much, would it? That may sound far-fetched, but that is exactly the case for people speaking over 2700 languages around the world today. The Bible has never been translated into their language. But that isn't the only barrier.
3. (Click). What if their culture isn't taken into account? Does it help you to hear that your sins will be washed away and you will be as white as snow, if you have never seen snow? After all, this is why people do modern versions of the Bible for us, isn't it? This is why we have the Message and the Street Bible – because people want it in a way that connects with what where they are at today.
4. Or what if, and of course we know this one would never happen here (Click), people receive poor Bible teaching. If people are taught in a confusing, or even worse in an incorrect way, it will affect their understanding of what God has to say to them.
5. For many people around the world, another issue is (Click) the fact that many people simply cannot read. There are over 1 billion illiterate adults in the world today. So helping people learn to read can be a crucial strategy in helping people come to the Lord. As is putting scripture onto cassettes, the radio and video for those who cannot yet read.
6. For others, the problem is very simple (Click). The Bible is simply not available. For some this is an economic barrier. The Bible may be there, but they are so poor that they cannot afford to purchase one. That is why it is important that in many countries the cost of Bibles is subsidised, so more people can afford to get them despite their meager incomes. In other places, it may be a matter of Christianity is discouraged or even persecuted. Here it may be very hard to find a Bible at all.
7. But this isn't our problem here at home, is it. We have the Bible in our language. We have dozens of versions to pick from that take our culture into account. We have great Bible teaching (that didn't sound humble, did it?). Most of us can read. The Bible is available in every bookshop. The

problem people here usually face is that (Click), people often just don't want to read the Bible. We are too busy with our lives, our jobs, our relationships, and so on, to find time to sit down with God and his book and listen to what he has to say to us.

8. And what is the result? All these barriers cut people off from the Bible and from understanding God's message of love for them. This is why for so many people around the world, every day is No Bible Sunday.

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