



# NO BIBLE SUNDAY?

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## Welcome resource

# Ours versus theirs!

### **Description:**

Use piles of books to show how much we have been blessed.

### **Aim:**

Help people to understand how much choice we have.

### **What's needed:**

A big pile of English Bibles in different versions and Bible study aids.

### **Time:**

4 minutes

### **Instructions:**

1. In advance, find as many Bible versions as you can (looking in the pastor's office is a great place to start!). Include different versions (be sure to cover all the standard options like the Authorised, NIV, Good News, etc.) as well as specialist versions (a youth study Bible, for example). Also find a pile of Bible study aids such as commentaries, Bible dictionaries, etc
2. Place these in two piles at the front of the church where attention can be drawn to them later in the service. Make sure to leave an empty space next to them.
3. When you reach the stage in the service where you want to use this activity, say: *"We are so used to having the Bible that we forget how much choice we have. Look at this pile of books here (point to the Bibles). These are different Bibles we found in the pastor's office – there were a lot there! – and in the homes of a few of us from the church. Just look at how many we have to choose from! If you're traditional, there's the Authorised Version (hold Bibles up as you refer to them). If you're contemporary, there's The Message. If you were contemporary a few years ago, there's The Good News. If you are about average, there's the NIV. If you are young and study-ish, we have a Youth Study Bible. Just look at all of these!"*
4. Move over and point to the pile of study aids. Say: *"But that is not all. We also have lots of resources to help us understand these Bibles. We have commentaries, Bible dictionaries, concordances, lexicons, and on and on and on. Not to mention all the resources on the web, people like the pastor to teach us, Christian media, etc. Simply put, we have a lot of the Bible and a lot to help us understand it. But none of that probably surprises you very much."*
5. Say: *"Now I want to tell you something that will surprise you. Most people in the world don't have as much as we do. More than 2700 languages don't have all the Bible versions we have (point to the Bible pile). They don't have all the study aids we have (point to the study aids pile). In fact when it comes to Scripture, this is what they have (point to the empty space on the floor). The people who speak 2700 languages around the world today have nothing. Not a whole Bible. Not a New Testament. Not a Gospel. Not a Chapter. Not a verse. Nothing."*
6. Say: *"So next time you open a Bible (hold up a Bible) or use any kind of Christian book (hold up one) remember to do two things. First, thank God for the fact that we have been blessed by having all of his Word in English. But second, remember to say a prayer for those who are still waiting to get it."*
7. Say: *"In fact, let's do that right now."* Pray as you feel led.

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