



NO BIBLE SUNDAY?

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Stop that singing!

Description:

Worship is interrupted every time that a Scripture reference is used in a song.

Aim:

Help people to remember how much our worship is based upon God's word.

What's needed:

Your normal worship leader and musicians, and a brave person willing to interrupt them.

Time:

5 minutes

Instructions:

1. In advance, select three songs that congregation likes to sing and which will work as do the examples shown below. Explain to any musicians what will happen so they aren't overly frustrated by this activity. Also find someone willing to interrupt the worship session and brief them on what they need to do. If you have time, it would also be good to practice this a couple times.
2. The worship leader comes to the front with the musicians as usual and says: *"It is good to be together here today, isn't it? Well, at least all this No Bible Sunday stuff shouldn't get in the way of a really good worship time. Let's begin by singing a worship song that we all know and love, 'Ah Lord God.'"*
3. Begin singing the song: *"Ah Lord God, thou hast made the heavens and the earth by Thy great power. Ah Lord God, Thou hast made the heavens and the earth by Thou outstretched arm. Nothing is too difficult for thee..."*
4. The interruption person, wearing a No Bible Sunday badge, should jump up, take a microphone and say: *"Hold on. I am afraid that we can't allow that song here today. You were just singing 'Ah Lord God, thou hast made the heavens and the earth by Thy great power. Ah Lord God, Thou hast made the heavens and the earth by Thou outstretched arm.' That is based upon Jeremiah 32: 17, which says 'Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.' Sorry but that is from the Bible, and this is No Bible Sunday. So that song is out. But, please continue!"*
5. The worship leader should shrug and say: *"Well let's go on then to our next song. Please join with us in praising God with 'From the Sun's Rising'."*
6. Begin singing the song: *"From the sun's rising until the sun's setting, Jesus our Lord shall be great in the earth, and all earth's kingdom shall be his dominion, all of creation shall sing of His worth..."*
7. The interruption person should interrupt again and say: *"Stop, stop, stop! I thought I made myself clear. This is NO Bible Sunday. So you can't sing any Scripture. And you were just doing it again. The line 'From the sun's rising unto the sun's setting, Jesus our Lord shall be great in the earth'. is taken from Psalm 113:3, which says 'From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the LORD is to be praised.' So that song is banned, too. But, please continue!"*
8. The worship leader should look a little discouraged but continue by saying: *"Let's try again then. We'll try a really simple song, so there's less for our beloved brother here to object to. Let's sing 'Abba Father'."*

9. Sing all the way through the song one time. As you start again...
10. The interruption person should interrupt again and say: *“Okay, that is it! You had to try and sneak the Bible into another song. The line ‘Abba Father’ shows up in Mark 14.36, Romans 8.15 and in Galations 4.6. So I don’t even know which one to get upset with you about. You will just have to stop singing altogether unless you can find a song without any reference to the Bible at all.”*
11. The worship leader should look discouraged for a minute, and then look excited and say: *“I have thought of one we can do! Everybody together now!”* The worship leader should then lead the congregation in singing *If you’re happy and you know it clap your hands*.
12. Continue with the service.

Optional way to adapt this idea:

Use this as a basis for prayer: Replace step 11 with the following.

The worship leader looks really discouraged, picks up his song book and thumbs through it. After a minute he puts it down and says *“Sorry everyone but it seems pretty hard to find a song that isn’t based on Scripture somehow. So I guess as long as this is No Bible Sunday, we can’t sing most of our favourite songs. But I can still pray. So let’s do that.”*

The worship leader prays, *“Dear God, we praise you that we live in a country where most weeks we can worship you however we like. Thank you for the multitude of worship songs and hymns that your people have written about you over the centuries. Thank you for the many ways you have spoken all of us through your word and inspired us to praise you. Thank you that in your word you reveal yourself to everyone and invite us to come and worship you. Help us to remember to meet with you regularly in prayer and Bible study so that we can learn more and more about how much we have to thank you for. But Lord, our hearts go out to all those who don’t have all the blessings that we do. Lord, please be with those people who face a No Bible Sunday every day. Please give them the chance to come to meet you through your word soon. In the glorious name of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen”*

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