



# NO BIBLE SUNDAY?

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Scripture Reading resource

## Wait until you hear this! (2)

### Description:

Scripture reading in a familiar foreign language.

### Aim:

Show people how it feels to not understand the Bible due to a language barrier.

### What's needed:

Confident speaker of this language and Scripture in that language.

### Time:

3 minutes

### Instructions:

1. In advance, find someone who speaks a language other than English which many people in the congregation will have studied in school. French is a very good option. Ask if they would be willing to read a section of Scripture in that language.
2. At the appropriate time in the service introduce this person with: "We will now have a very important message brought to us by (name)."
3. The reader comes to the front and says, "I am really excited to have the chance to share this today. I have something very important to tell you. In fact, I have a message for you from God! Wait until you hear this!"
4. The reader should open their Bible with a flourish, pause for a moment and then read 2 Timothy 3:14-17 in French.
5. After reading for a minute or so, the reader should close the Bible and say: "Wasn't that inspirational? Isn't it great that God wants us to know things like this?"
6. The reader should then leave and whoever is leading the service should ask: "What language was that reading in?" Then ask, "How many of you studied French (or other language name) in school? Raise your hands." "Many of you have studied this language, but how many of you really understood what was read. Raise your hand if you did." (Again have people raise their hands. A lot less people will)
7. Point out that although they are all fairly educated people who probably studied French (or whatever language you are using) for several years, few of them could understand the Bible reading. How much harder must it be for much less educated people in the developing world, who often learn another language without any formal help in the marketplace, to understand God's word in a different language. End by saying: "For the speakers of 2700 languages around the world today, this is exactly what they experience every Sunday. Praise God that we have the Bible in our language!"
8. Read the same passage in English later in the service (during the sermon or the Bible Celebration).

### Optional way to adapt this idea:

**Do the reading from the Greek New Testament:** do the same activity, but use Greek. Make the point that originally the New Testament was written in Greek. If someone hadn't taken the time and effort to translate it into English for us, this is how the Bible would sound every Sunday. All of us are dependent on translation in order to understand God's word.