



NO BIBLE SUNDAY?

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Sermon resource

Who's got the truth?

Description:

A talk about access to God's truth, using sealed and unsealed buckets as visual aids.

Aim:

To demonstrate how not having access to the Bible prevents people from hearing the truth.

What's needed:

6 buckets with labels & answers (provided), *No Bible Sunday* logo, plastic bag and tape, Bible

Time:

5 minutes

Instructions:

1. In advance prepare six buckets with the following large labels stuck on the side: Science; Advertising; Media; Friends & Family; School; and Bible (labels provided). In each bucket place the corresponding answer to the question: "What do I need to do to be loved?" (answers provided). In the "Bible" bucket put a copy of the Bible. Seal up the "Bible" bucket (e.g. by taping a plastic bag over the top of the bucket) and stick the *No Bible Sunday* logo (logo provided) on the opposite side of the bucket from the Bible label.

2. Arrange the buckets at the front of the church so that the labels can be seen.

3. During the service introduce this item by saying, "Today people in our society face a lot of questions about life. Questions like: how can we find meaning to our life; how can we get on in life; how can we have a better life? I'm sure you can relate to some of those questions yourself. But where do people go to get answers to these questions? Where can they find the truth? Today we are going to try and find answers to one particular question: 'What do I need to do in order to be loved?'"

4. Walk over to the row of buckets and pull out an answer from the "Advertising" bucket, saying "This is what the advertisers say in answer to the question, 'What do I need to do to be loved?'" Read out the answer.

5. Continue going along the row of buckets pulling out and reading the answers to the question, "What do I need to do to be loved?" for Science, Media, Friends & Family, and School.

6. After reading out all the answers say, "So in answer to my question 'What do I need to do to be loved?' the Advertisers and Media say I need to have the right image and be a celebrity. The Scientists say love is just a matter of chemical reactions in the brain and social conditioning. At school I'm told I just need to be popular. And with friends and family I need to show love to be loved. What do you think of that? Are you satisfied with those answers?" Go over to the "Bible" bucket and say, "I wonder what the Bible – God's word to us – has to say in answer to my question?" Try to put your hand into the bucket, but make it obvious that you can't get your hand in because the bucket is sealed. Turn the bucket round to show the *No Bible Sunday* logo and say, "It seems that today we're not able to get access to God's word."

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7. Continue saying, *"As Christians we believe that God knows the answer to all the important questions we face in life. We also believe that God has given us his word to help us find the answers to these questions. He wants us to understand how he sees us and our world. In a society where we are bombarded with different messages about who we are and what we should be, the Bible – God's word – provides us with the only truth direct from the Creator himself."* Lift up the "Bible" bucket and say, *"Yet for millions of people in the world, God's word may as well be this sealed up bucket. They cannot get access to the truth inside because there are no Bibles in the language that they understand. Or they don't know how to read it. Or they are persecuted and prevented from owning a Bible."*

8. Continue saying, *"What is the truth that these millions of people are missing out on? Let's unseal the 'Bucket of Truth' and see what God's word says in answer to my question, 'What do I need to do to be loved?'"* Unseal the bucket and read out the answer found inside. Take out the Bible from inside the bucket and read John 3:16.

9. Finish by saying, *"Having access to God's truth through his word, the Bible, is something we take for granted. Today, on No Bible Sunday, we want to remember all those who don't have access to His word."*

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LABELS FOR BUCKETS

Cut out the labels below and stick them on the buckets.

SCIENCE

MEDIA

ADVERTISING

**FRIENDS &
FAMILY**

SCHOOL

BIBLE



ANSWERS

Cut out the answers below and place them in the corresponding bucket.

Advertising

Question: What do I need to do to be loved?

Answer: Be beautiful -- work on your image. If you are a woman then to be loved you need to be slim, youthful and beautiful. If you are a man, you need to be tall, handsome and rich. Image is all. Buy beautiful, expensive things. Show off your wealth. You are judged by how you look and by what you possess.

Science

Question: What do I need to do to be loved?

Answer: Neurochemical pathways in the brain regulate social attachments. Love is a chemical state of mind that's part of our genes and influenced by our upbringing. Love is a mechanism for preserving and continuing the species. Whether someone loves you depends on the chemical processes going on in their head and their social conditioning.

Friends and family

Question: What do I need to do to be loved?

Answer: There's no one answer to this question, it will depend on your family and your friends. For many, in order to be loved you need to show love. For example, you show that you care by remembering important occasions, sending cards and giving gifts on birthdays, being there in times of trouble, and helping out in times of need.

School

Question: What do I need to do to be loved?

Answer: Popularity is what's important. People will love you if you are popular. Have lots of friends. Get in with the 'in-crowd'.

Media

Question: What do I need to do to be loved?

Answer: Be famous. People love celebrities. Fame is everything. Do whatever it takes to be known. You are valued by how many people know you and by what they think of you.

Bible

Question: What do I need to do to be loved?

Answer: You don't need to do anything! You are already loved, and not by just anyone, but by God! He demonstrated how much he loved you by sacrificing the most important thing to him, his son Jesus, in order to have a relationship with you. Probably the most famous verse in the Bible tells you that: John 3 v.16.

(read this verse from the Bible in the bucket).