

Get your young people working to help support Bible-based Literacy work across the world.

This pack contains ideas that you can use in a children's or youth organisation, including,

- Illustrative activities,
- A worksheet,
- Prayer ideas,
- A fundraising plan.

We hope you enjoy using this material to get your young people interested in mission work, and that they will learn to engage with God's Word as they do it.

Suggestion...

If you are planning to use this resource during a meeting/session, we would suggest you use the 'Background Information' sheet to introduce the country and project your church is supporting. Tell the children about it in an exciting way, perhaps doing a true (thumbs up) or false (thumbs down) quiz, or having a themed meeting with decorations and clothes suitable to the country.

is supporting

Literacy *n.* The ability to read and write or to have a particular knowledge of something

Literacy is a much needed and desired skill for millions of people across the world.

The Bible Society faces the challenge of promoting literacy by helping people to learn to read and write – through Bible-based literacy classes, listening groups, New Reader Portions and Braille.

Projects are run in many countries across the world, promoting Bible-based literacy and encouraging people to take life-changing opportunities as they delve into the Word of God.

Pictionary

Have a number of cards made out with different words on them, these could include animals, people, places, food, actions, or objects.

You could play this as one large group, or make it into a competition between two teams. Get the young people to take turns in picking cards. Once someone picks a card they have 5 seconds to think about it, before they try and draw their word in one minute. The rest of the team have to try and guess what it is that is being drawn.

The person drawing is not allowed to use any kind of actions or verbal communication. No words, symbols or numbers are allowed to be written.

This game demonstrates how it is hard to communicate when you cannot use words, verbal or written.

One in five people in the world are illiterate. They cannot read signposts, medicine bottles, food packaging, newspapers, or novels.

They cannot read the Bible. How can people know God fully if they do not know his Word?

Understanding Words

Talk to the young people on a specialist subject, or invite someone to come in and talk to them. This could be anything from computers to horse jumping to the stock market. Talk using the specialist language that goes along with the subject, using technical words that only people interested in the topic will understand.

When the talk is finished ask the young people what they thought about it – get them to be honest. How much did they actually understand? How many of them stopped listening after a while?

Explain that when we don't understand something we find it hard to pay attention, and we can get very discouraged. For many people across the world reading the Bible is like this. If people do not know how to read, or if they don't have the Bible in their language, they cannot understand what God is saying to them.

Communicating

Get the young people to think about how they would communicate God's Word to people that were illiterate.

They could split into small groups and then show their ideas to the rest of the group. Some ideas are verbal storytelling, acting a story, filming and sign language.

Explain to the young people that these are all amazing ways to communicate God's Word. But what about spending personal time with God, when there isn't someone to tell the story or to act it out for you? People need to be able to read or have a recording of the Bible so that they can understand God's Word personally.

John 4:14

“But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.”

Read John 4: 1-15 and answer these questions...

How many glasses of water or juice do you drink in one day?

Do you ever drink some water and still feel thirsty?

Jesus told the woman at the well that he could give her water to drink which would mean she would never be thirsty again. (verse 14)



Is Jesus talking about water like we'd get out of a well or a tap? What do you think Jesus is talking about?

What does it mean to have eternal life?

Can you find all the words in the wordsearch below?

```

z i j n s e y o n g n p e m n
i t p m t p a y q n w t f j b
p u o r g g n i n e t s i l f
b y r l e t i r w z g p l f c
x t t l i y d b r w e d l l j
k i u e k t i a p b e k a f i
a o y y i z e n e t t s n u r
s q a s u c a r a r s j r b m
g p v z o n o r a e x h e r b
u t y u w a e s s c t w t a q
h t p i q t p s e g y k e i z
s d k k i q e b e l z d g l u
a s v l i z g x g d b o d l j
j a l h h r e b s l b i d e i
e i n e w r e a d e r k b q t
    
```

bible society
classes
illiterate
literacy
read

braille
eternal life
listening group
new reader
write

We can drink the water Jesus gives us when we read the Bible, understand what God is saying to us through it, and accept it into our lives.

Lots of people across the world can't read the Bible because they have never learnt how to read, or because they are blind.

How do you think it makes people feel when they can't read God's Word?

How could we help people who can't read the Bible?

Get your young people praying for Bible-based Literacy all across the world.

Use these simple creative techniques to help the young people understand and be sincere about what they are praying for.

John 4:14 Prayer

Give everyone a glass or beaker. Have a jug of water and walk around the group filling up everyone's glass. As you do this talk about John 4:14 and how we can have eternal life. Remind the young people that not everyone is privileged like us – we can easily read how to have eternal life, but so many people can't do this.

As they drink their water, challenge the young people to pray for people all across the world who cannot read. Pray that they would come to know God and how they can have eternal life by learning to read the Bible.



World Map Prayer

Lay out a world map on the floor. (Maps can be printed off the internet or bought in stationary shops. Alternatively you can use a globe.) Give each young person a post-it note or sticky label. Get them to spend some time by themselves thinking about what aspect of literacy they could pray for. Get them to write their prayer down on their label and then when they are ready they can stick it onto the map, on the country they wish to pray for.

How can people know God fully if they do not know His Word?

It is BSNI's hope that millions of people will discover the love of God and His life-changing salvation through Bible-based Literacy.

4mins a day to pray?

Will you commit to praying for the millions of people across the world who aren't able to engage with the Word?

It only takes 4mins a day to pray for the spread of Bible-based Literacy.

Prayer Cards

Get the young people to make a prayer card with different points on it. This could then be put inside their Bible to remind them to pray for literacy all across the world.

Or you could order the Literacy4Life prayer cards and encourage the young people to pray for 4mins each day.

No words allowed

Words are so important. They are what we use the most to communicate with other people. We are so privileged that we can speak, read and write, when millions of people all across the world cannot.

The Bible Society in Northern Ireland wants to help these people by teaching them to read and write, and giving them a Bible of their own so that they can learn about the love that God has for them.

is supporting

Do you think you could help these people?

People face the challenge of living with no words...could you? This group of young people are trying to go for a time without words, reflecting on the difficulties people face when they cannot communicate through words.

Will you sponsor _____ to last _____ without speaking?

If you would like any more information about this then please speak to _____

The Bible Society in Northern Ireland joins with other Bible Societies as the United Bible Societies to achieve the most effective translation, publication, and distribution of the Bible in all the languages spoken today.

www.bsni.co.uk

projects@bsni.co.uk

02890326577

Sponsor _____ to last _____ without speaking

Name	Address	Amount (£)	Paid

Total raised £ _____

