



Bible
Society

Middle East: hope for refugees

Bringing
the Bible to **Life**

Middle East: hope for refugees

Salma* and her husband had a comfortable life in Syria with their seven children. When fighting broke out in their town, they left for Jordan. The border was only an hour away, and they intended to wait until the skirmish died down, and return home.

That was three years ago. Their home is now rubble. The family lost everything.

Since she's been in Jordan, Salma has received help from our team. Our staff brought the Bible to life by practically demonstrating God's love – helping Salma find a flat and providing her with food. And after a while, Salma chose to engage with the Bible herself.

'I began attending a women's group; we studied the Bible and shared our worries. It was at this group that I really met Jesus – and I received a Bible.'
After a year of love, prayer and support from our team, Salma became a Christian. *'The belief in Jesus makes life worth living, even though I own nothing. The Bible is everything in my life. I've changed. I believe God brought me here from Syria, to go from dark to light.'*

*name changed to protect her identity

- Give thanks that refugees like Salma are finding hope, comfort and strength in the Bible. Pray for our teams in Jordan and Lebanon who are sharing God's love in practical ways too.
- Lift up to God the many children traumatised by war in the Middle East. Pray for children and families attending our Bible-based counselling groups, and ask that they'll find healing through God's word.
- To find out more visit biblesunday.org.uk
- Together, let's do something amazing:
bring the Bible to life for those who need it most.

Africa: the Bible reconciling families



Bringing
the Bible to **Life**

Africa: the Bible reconciling families

In a village in northern Rwanda, two women share a hug and giggle. It's a happy scene, but behind it lies a story of division, hatred and, ultimately, the triumph of love through the word of God.

Chantel and Petronille are sisters-in-law – but for 18 years they refused to speak to each other. The fall-out can be tracked back to the chaotic aftermath of the 100-day genocide that saw 800,000 people slaughtered in Rwanda. The pair don't spell out what happened, but whatever it was, it triggered great depths of bitterness and hatred. Chantel and her husband Bernard cut ties with his brother and his wife Petronille. It was a feud that Bernard's brother took to his grave, and even after his death the family was divided.

So what changed? What brought reconciliation and healing? The Bible. Specifically Matthew 7.

He explains: *'We read that no person may judge others and that we must first remove the log in our own eye. Now we have taken the time to understand one another and forgive each other. We have reconciled our differences and today we are living in peace and share everything. We are here together, and testify to the work God has done in our lives.'*

- Give thanks that Christianity is growing in Africa, faster than anywhere else in the world. Pray that we'll be able to keep up with the phenomenal demand for the Bible, and see lives changed, for good, as people engage with God's story.
- Pray for our teams who are working in the toughest, hardest places. Pray the Bible will help build bridges where there is conflict, and shape just, peaceful and thriving communities.
- To find out more visit biblesunday.org.uk
- Together, let's do something amazing: bring the Bible to life for those who need it most.



Bible
Society

China: meeting demand for Scripture



Bringing
the Bible to **Life**

China: meeting demand for Scripture

Fourteen years ago, Tang Xinnian's husband ripped up her Bible because he didn't like her going to church. It was her only copy, destroyed and unreadable.

But Xinnian heard that our team were visiting a village near her home to hand out Bibles. She walked for two hours across the country – and she got one. *'Today I'm so happy to get a Bible!'* said Xinnian, 46, a farmer and mother-of-two. *'I've been a Christian for 20 years and was baptised last year. I have God in my heart all the time, but I haven't had a Bible for 14 years.'*

Xinnian is just one member of China's rapidly-growing Church. It's estimated the number of Christians in China could double within the next decade – and we need to provide five million Bibles a year for every new believer to have one.

- Give thanks that we're able to print millions of Bibles for the Chinese church every year, and that this is underpinning the growth of Christianity. Pray we'll raise funds to print enough Bibles for every new believer.
- Pray for efforts to train and equip church leaders in China. Currently, there's one trained leader for every 6,000 Christians, so we're urgently working to help train more ministers.
- To find out more visit biblesunday.org.uk
- Together, let's do something amazing: bring the Bible to life for those who need it most.

Our work at home: Bible storytelling in schools



Bringing
the Bible to **Life**

Our work at home: Bible storytelling in schools

More than 620,000 children are now hearing Bible stories regularly at school, thanks to our Bible storytelling project, Open the Book.

The project has seen phenomenal expansion since it merged with Bible Society in 2013, and today it's in 2,400 schools in England and Wales, reaching almost one in seven primary-aged children. Around 13,500 volunteer storytellers make this possible, preparing props and costumes each week and going into schools to re-enact and re-tell the Bible's stories.

Nine in 10 schools say Open the Book 'raises spirituality' among children and 96% believe it has a positive impact on the life of the school.

At Manor Park Primary School, in Knutsford, Cheshire, the children love their Open the Book assemblies. Nine-year-old Alfie said, *'Sometimes when you read a book, you go off it because there are too many words. Open the Book brings the stories to life.'*

Sadie, 10, added, *'The stories are not boring, you never want to doze off. I think every school needs someone like Open the Book who show them the Bible.'* Meanwhile, 10-year-old Harry said, *'The Open the Book people are very, very, very kind. We couldn't get any better. Everybody knows it's not real life, but it looks so close to real life. If they just had real sea it would be really good.'*

- Give thanks that we're reaching around one in seven primary school children with the Bible through Open the Book, and particularly lift up our team of volunteers who bring Scripture's stories to life each week.
- Every day, we hear from schools who want Open the Book – but we need more volunteers to meet the demand. Pray that more churches will be inspired to share the Bible in this way.
- To find out more visit biblesunday.org.uk
- Together, let's do something amazing: bring the Bible to life for those who need it most.