

Bible Sunday

Youth talk

**'All Scripture is breathed out by
God and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, and
for training in righteousness'**

2 Timothy 3.16 (ESV)

2 Timothy 3.14-4.5 (ESV)

¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. ¹I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ²preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. ⁵As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.

This talk has been written by Rachael Markham, Church Relationship Manager for Bible Society. Rachael represents Bible Society in the Central South and also gets involved in talking to people on stands at festivals. Rachael suggests using questions, written in italics. You can use these rhetorically, ask people to respond individually or work in groups to come up with an answer, depending on the time allowed, group size and their interaction. In each instance, be ready to share your own answer.

Introduce Bible Society by sharing Mary Jones story

Over 200 years ago there was a girl named Mary Jones. She really wanted a Bible in her own language, Welsh. For six years she saved up enough money to finally buy one. She trekked 26 miles across Welsh fields and countryside to reach the house of Revd Thomas Charles in a place called Bala. To her disappointment, Revd Charles explained that he had no Welsh Bibles! Mary ended up staying at his house until a new delivery of Bibles arrived, and he gave her three for the price of one. Her determination to get a Bible in her heart language was so inspiring that Thomas Charles resolved to do something about the wider issue of Bible availability in Wales. Subsequently, a man by the name of Revd Joseph Hughes asked the question 'If for Wales, why not for the kingdom? And if for the kingdom, why not for the world?'; and so Bible Society was born.

Have any of you waited a really long time for something you really wanted?

Share a story of a time you have waited a really long time for something, possibly to be disappointed once you had it because it wasn't what you expected.

How would you feel if you'd waited years for a Bible, and someone finally gave you one, but in the wrong language?

You could download and print a page of 2 Timothy 3.14-4.5 or any other Bible passage in Welsh or Cornish from the Bible Society **website** to try reading it. (<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/read/eng/GNB/2Tim/3/highlight:14/>)

Read about the Black Yi translation on our **website** (<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/donate/appeals/translating-the-bible-into-new-languages/>)

Bible Society works to translate the Bible into new languages, for people who are waiting to receive it. Some people have been waiting generations for a Bible.

Does anyone want to take a guess how many languages are still waiting to be translated?



At this point hand out paper and pens and divide the group into teams of three or four, depending on how many people are present.

Answer:

- There are 7,097 languages worldwide.
- There are 3,773 with no Bible translation. Much work lies ahead if at least some parts of the Bible are to be made available to these remaining languages.

What's the largest group of people you have seen in one place?

Might be their school assembly, a concert, sporting event, something they've seen on TV.

How many times bigger would the crowd need to be, to reach 209 million people?

Maybe 2,300 times my school, 13 times everyone who watched the World Cup. Let them share their ideas with each other.

So why do you think 209 million is relevant?

Take some guesses and see if anyone comes close.

- We estimate that 209 million people speak these untranslated languages.
- Source: <https://www.unitedbiblesocieties.org/2017-global-scripture-access-report-gathering-momentum/>

Perhaps you sit there and think how many of those people actually want a Bible?

What has the Bible ever done for me? (Rhetorical question only)

Share your testimony. How the Bible has impacted or changed your life, and why it is important to you.

Bible Society works with all sorts of people. Famous people, rich people, poor people, clever people, illiterate people, deaf people, blind people, ordinary people.

Speaking of people, there's three people I briefly want to mention, and I wonder if you can tell me what they are known for? Rita Ora, Albert Einstein and Mo Farah.

Does anybody know what they have in common?

Answers: Rita Ora is a famous singer; Albert Einstein was a scientist; Mo Farah is an athlete. This is what they are typically known for.

They are also all refugees.

How many of you have an iPhone?

Steve Jobs was the son of a refugee.

At the moment, Bible Society is doing a lot of work with refugees.

Show the video about Fida from our **website** (<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/your-fundraising-pack/>) but stop it just before the request for financial support, then expand on her story using the **PPT** (https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/content/get_involved/fundraising_packs/2018_resources/jordan_powerpoint_2018_v2.ppt).

In today's reading from 2 Timothy, Paul encourages a young man named Timothy to be a bold Christian, and not to let people look down on him because of his young age. Paul shares with his young friend Timothy, **¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**

Bible Society seeks to give everyone the opportunity to hear these teachings, and to be able to learn from them as we do. In 2017 Bible Society was able to help translate the Bible in 20 languages that have never before received scripture. Bible Society gives Bibles out because the Bible draws people to Jesus. The Bible points to life. It points to hope. We are bringing the Bible to life.

Share ways in which the youth could become involved with Bible Society and help others access the Bible. For example, you could fundraise, such as doing a car wash or a sponsored walk, an auction of jobs like baby-sitting or gardening.