

Print New Bibles



Description:

Bible availability demonstration and a creative activity

Aims:

- Appreciate the amazing access we have to the Bible.
- Recognize that everything about a Bible needs careful planning, down to the last detail of design
- Pray for translation projects nearing completion

Audience:

Grades 1- 6

Space Needed:

Classroom

Country/Area:

General

Minimum Time Requirements:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| • Comparing versions | 4 minutes |
| • Design a Bible | 15 minutes |
| • Activity page and prayer | 5 minutes |

Scripture to Study:

John 20:31

Materials:

- Five different English Bibles of varying designs, including at least one children's Bible.
- One Bible or New Testament from a minority language
- Drawing paper, pencils, markers/ crayons/colored pencils
- Copies of the Bible design activity from DiscipleLand website (<http://www.discipleland.com/downloads/moreinfo/ntcovers.pdf>), for every two to four children
- One sheet of plain paper for every two to four children
- One copy of activity page 14 for each child (p. 5 of this lesson)
- Prayer requests from *The Finish Line* at: <http://www.wycliffe.org/Pray/TheFinishLine.aspx>

Pre-class Preparations:

- Prepare copies of activity page 14 (from end of this lesson) and the Bible design activity (from DiscipleLand website).
- Stack the English Bibles on a table at the front of the room.
- Place the minority language Scripture beside the stack of English Bibles.
- Highlight one group description (A, B, or C) on each Bible design activity sheet so that the teams will design Bibles for different language groups. Cover or cut out the answer key in the bottom right hand corner.
- Prayer requests from *The Finish Line* at: <http://www.wycliffe.org/Pray/TheFinishLine.aspx> (optional)

Class Time:

COMPARING AVAILABLE VERSIONS

Draw the children's attention to the stack of English Bibles. Hold up different copies one by one and discuss the differences. Some may be for children, others for adults doing serious study. Some may say the message in a different way. Some cost little; others cost a lot. Some have illustrations; others have just Scripture. Say,

Wow! Isn't it amazing to see all the different kinds of Bibles here? Can you guess the language in each of these Bibles?

Allow children to respond and then continue,

Yes, if you know how to read English, you could pick up any one of these different Bibles and read it. You have a lot of English Bibles from which to choose, don't you? Bookstores sell even more English Bibles than just these!

Now, hold up a copy of the Scriptures in a minority language. Try to borrow one from a Wycliffe friend. Tell the children,

This Bible (or New Testament) is written in (***name the language in which that Bible is written and the country from which it came***). No other versions of the Bible exist in this language—no children's Bibles, study Bibles, teen Bibles, etc. They have just this one. How would you feel about owning one of these Bibles, even though it might be the only version in your language?

Materials:

- Five different English Bibles of varying designs, including at least one children's Bible.
- One Bible or New Testament from a minority language

Allow the children to respond and then continue,

Bible translators work hard to write the Bible in a language that has never had it. In fact, sometimes no one has ever written the language before! Bible translators need to form a translation team, develop an alphabet, translate, check their work with people who speak the language, make revisions or corrections, check it with Bible translation experts, make more revisions or corrections, and on and on until the words are as accurate, beautiful and clear as they can make them.

Finally, after all those years of hard work, they plan how to print the Bible. Can you imagine the excitement? Before printing the Bibles, the whole community needs to make some decisions about how they want the Bibles to look.

DESIGN A BIBLE

Display a children’s Bible. Show the cover and flip through some of the pages. Ask,

Why does this Bible look like this? It looks different from many of the Bibles here. Why?

Allow the children to respond. Draw out the idea that the publisher designed it to look attractive and help children understand God’s message. Explain,

A Bible translation team wants to make the translation attractive and useful, too. The team wants people to use the Bible.

Tell the children,

Now *you* have a chance to plan how a Bible should look for a specific group of people.

Read one of the descriptions from the page downloaded from the DiscipleLand website. Ask,

Give me a few ideas about how the Bible for these people should look.

After the children have suggested a few design possibilities, give each group of two to four children a copy of the descriptions. Each group should “design” a Bible for the group highlighted on their sheet. They may use crayons or markers to draw their designs on the blank paper.

Materials:

- Children’s Bible
- Copies of the Bible design activity from DiscipleLand website, for every two to four children
- One sheet of plain paper for every two to four children
- Pencils, markers/ crayons/colored pencils

After about 10 minutes, ask several groups to show what they have designed. Have them explain why they designed their Bibles the way they did.

ACTIVITY PAGE

Tell the children,

Once translation teams finish final preparations, the Bibles can go to print. You might think that everyone could relax now. But often Satan puts up serious roadblocks in one final effort to keep God's Word out of the people's hands and hearts. Translation teams need extra prayer at the end. In just a few minutes, we will pray for some translation projects nearing completion.

Read about a few translations from *The Finish Line* or share about one with which you are familiar.

Distribute activity page 14. Say,

Before we pray, let's learn from this activity page. It will give us some ideas about how to pray for people who still wait for God's Word in their own language.

Read and complete the activity page together.

Read John 20:31. Talk about God's reason for giving us the Bible. Have groups pray for a project nearing completion.

Materials:

- One copy of activity page 14 for each child (p. 5 of this lesson)
- Bible
- Pencils
- Prayer requests from *The Finish Line* (optional)

Print New Bibles

After years of hard work, the brand-new Bibles are finally ready to be printed! But before the presses roll, the people choose the cover color, the maps, and the page design. Each culture has its own needs and preferences.

Near the end of a translation project, troubles often increase. Then the team needs extra prayer! Draw lines to connect each sentence with a picture that shows how to pray for people without Bibles.



**N. Junin
 Quechua**
 population: 60,000
 location: Peru
 New Testament
 completed 1997



Ask God to free people's hearts and minds from Satan's power.



Ask God to give Bibleless people a hunger for God's Word in their own language.



Ask God what He wants YOU to do! (Ephesians 2:10)

Ask God to form a translation team for each people group that still waits for their Bible.

