

Select from these ideas to suit the format and time of your children's activities.

There are short illustrations useful for a children's address within the service or a programme of activities for children's church.

## Boxes of Bibles

This is a short sketch to show how there are people in the world with no Bible. You will need a box filled with as many Bibles as you can, an empty box, and some material for an actor to dress up. Have a child prepared to be your (Congolese) friend.

*'I was looking around my house to see how many Bibles I could find. I've brought them in this box, but it's so full and heavy I can hardly carry it! Help me count how many Bibles I've got. Wow!*

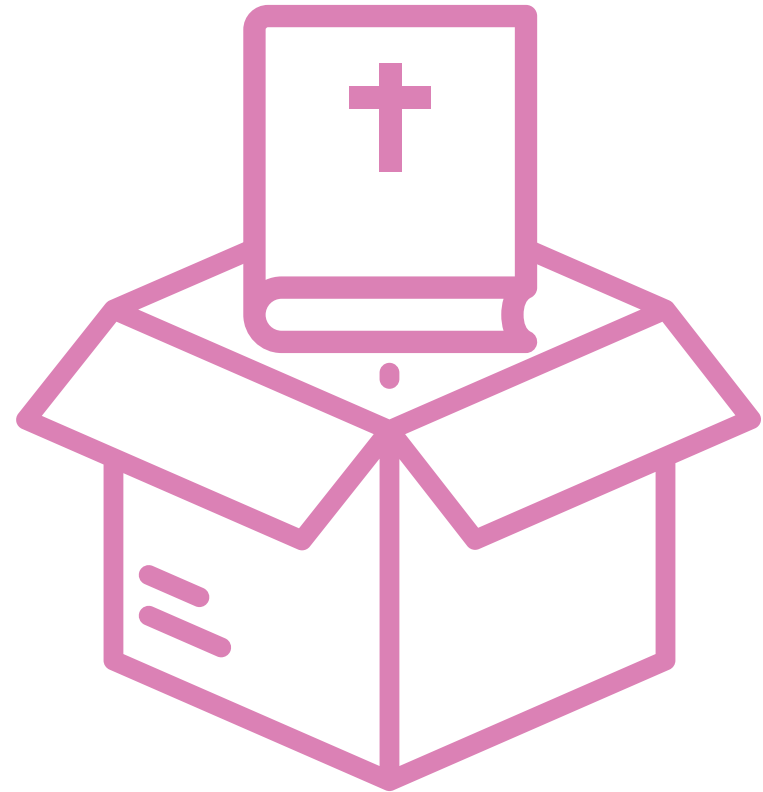
I'm going to invite my (Congolese) friend to come up.

**[Child volunteer dressed up]** *Hi! Have you seen my box of Bibles? I was wondering, how many Bibles do you have in your language?*

**[Actor goes to retrieve an empty box and presents it sadly.]**

*What? None? That's not fair!*

The good news is that there are many people around the world who agree that this is not fair. They go and translate the Bible with people who do not have one yet. They want everybody to know who Jesus is. How can our friend know who Jesus is if he/she doesn't even have a Bible?'



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## The Uncle Cam Story

This reminds me of a man called Cameron Townsend. In 1917, William Cameron Townsend 'Uncle Cam', age 19, went to Guatemala as a missionary. He wanted to sell lots of Spanish Bibles to the people so that they could learn about God. But the people weren't really interested and he wondered why.

He told them all about the amazing God of the Bible but only a few people asked him for a Bible.

Then finally an old man said to him, 'Mister, if your God is so great, why doesn't He speak MY language?' Cameron Townsend knew that God certainly spoke this man's language (Cakchiquel), because God knows EVERY language, but Cakchiquel hadn't been written down.

There was no Bible available in Cakchiquel. Over the next 17 years, Cameron learned their language and translated the New Testament into Cakchiquel so the people could know God and worship Him in their heart language.



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## Important Message

Have a message inside an envelope marked 'Important'. Build up some excitement about what it might be. Ask for a volunteer to open it and read the message. The page will contain a verse written in a different language e.g.

*Kasi makambo oyo ekomami po bino bondima 'te Yezu azali Mesia, Mwana ya Nzambe. Soki bondimi bongo, bokozwa bomoi na 'kombo na ye.*  
Yoane 20:31

(This is Lingala, DR Congo)

Ask if anyone understands it? Are there any parts of it they might be able to work out? They might guess it's a verse due to the numbers at the end. Then reveal the verse in English:

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31

Wow! These things are written so we can believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. We can have life when we believe in him. That really is an important message.

See, the Bible tells us that God loves us. In fact, it tells us about why he made us in the first place! He made us so that we could know Him and be friends with him.

We also learn in the Bible that we do wrong things. God can't be friends with people who are always doing wrong things that hurt or disappoint him. He asks us to say sorry. When we do wrong things, they need to be punished but the Bible explains how Jesus was punished instead so that we wouldn't have to be.

So this verse that we've just read simply tells us why all the things in the Bible

were written down: so that we may believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that we can have everlasting life with God if we believe in him!

But there are many people in our world today who do not have a Bible, or the one they do have is in a language they don't understand.

In fact when I say many, I mean MANY! 1.5 billion people – that's a lot of people. From now on, when I say 1.5 billion people, I want you to say, 'Wow.... that's a lot of people.' Let's try it... **1.5 billion people! Wow....** that's a lot of people. (x3)

I wonder what that looks like... **[flash cards – volunteers to hold one digit each]**

1,500,000,000 I'm going to need to ask a lot of you for help now.

Ok, so there are up to **1.5 billion people!** (Wow.... that's a lot of people.) in the world today who don't have a Bible available in their language!

**1.5 billion people!** (Wow.... that's a lot of people.) cannot read the Bible because it's just not in their language! When they go to read it, it looks like this: **[point to Lingala page]** and they don't understand what it says.

We are very fortunate here to have had the Bible in English for over 400 years! It's important that we remember people who still don't have the Bible. We can pray, asking God to help the translators who are helping them and ask that soon they will be able to read about Jesus in the Bible for themselves. We can also support people by writing to them or by raising some money to send to help them in their work.

We're going to start by praying for them.

**Written activity:** Write a prayer for people who don't yet have the Bible.

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## Understanding Instructions

Ask for a volunteer to read some instructions and carry them out - but give them the instructions **written in French**. They (probably) won't understand. Ask them if there are any words they recognise. Link to the fact that lots of people don't have a Bible they can understand. They are trying to read another language and it all looks strange.

Then give the instructions in **English** but with some words blanked out. They will be able to understand part of the instructions. Get them to guess what the blanks could be - try to draw out a few possible answers. Can they know for sure which one, if any, of the suggestions are correct? No. Likewise, some people can understand a little of another language, but not enough to understand fully.

This means if they try to read the Bible, they can only understand bits of it but they could end up with important information missing!

**Then give the full instructions in English - it's actually simple when you can understand. The instructions are now clear and easy. When people can access God's word in their own language, they can fully grasp what God is saying.**

But what if people find it hard to read? What other things could we do that might help them to understand? - someone could read it to them, pictures, audio etc. As well as translating the Bible, there are lots of teams working on Bible apps, audio recordings so they can listen to the Bible being read out, films, picture books. We want everyone to be able to hear what God has to say through his word.

## Psalm 119 v 72

'Your instructions are more valuable to me than millions in gold and silver.'

How precious for people to have the Bible in their own language!

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**A taste of translation (See folder of worksheets)**

**'God loves you' word jumble**

**'God loves you' worksheets (for different levels)**

**The Kusaal enigma activity - for upper primary**

**NoBible  
Sunday**

Wycliffe  
Bible  
Translators

**NoBible  
Sunday**

Wycliffe  
Bible  
Translators

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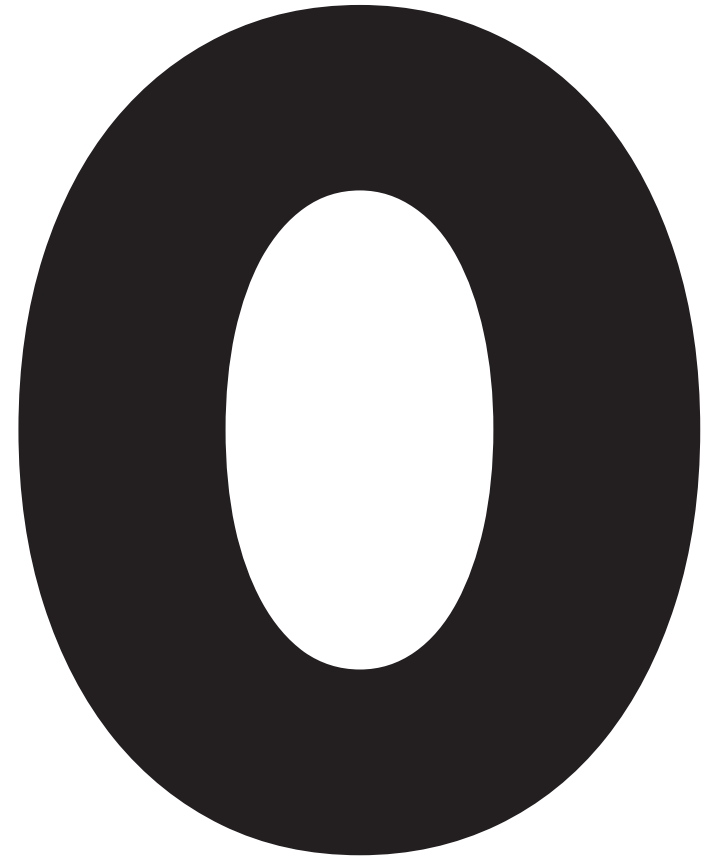
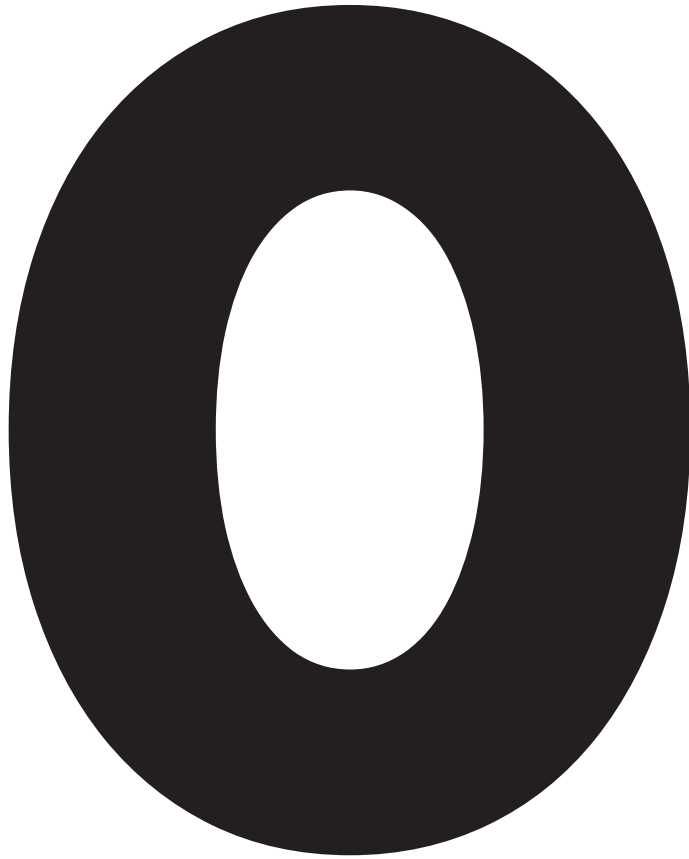
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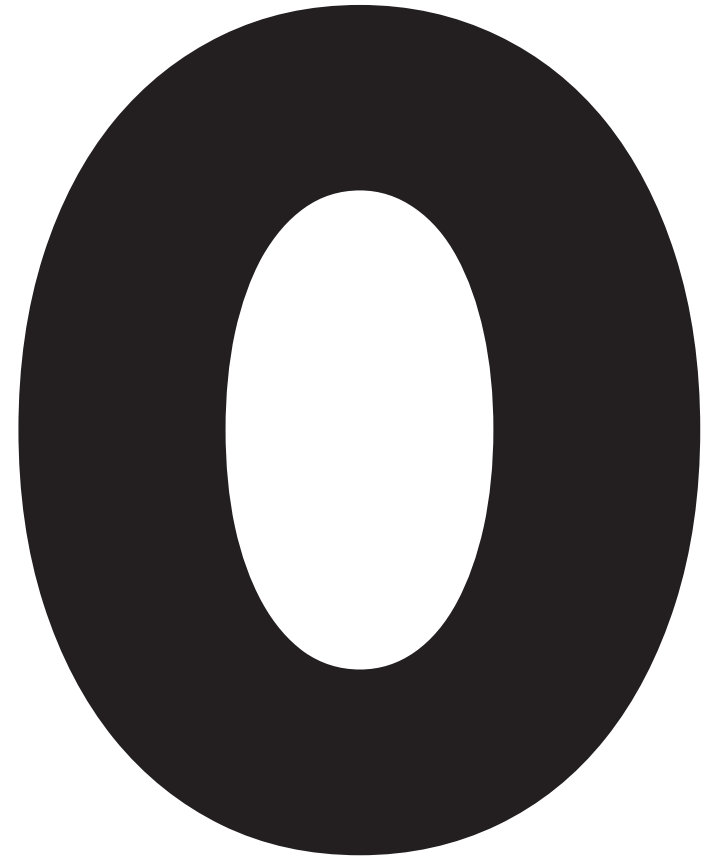
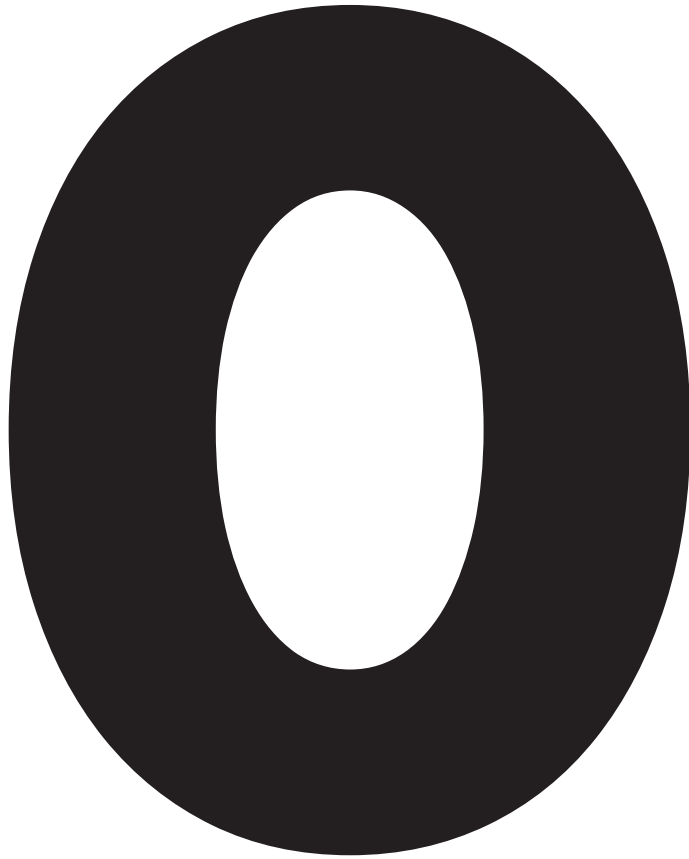


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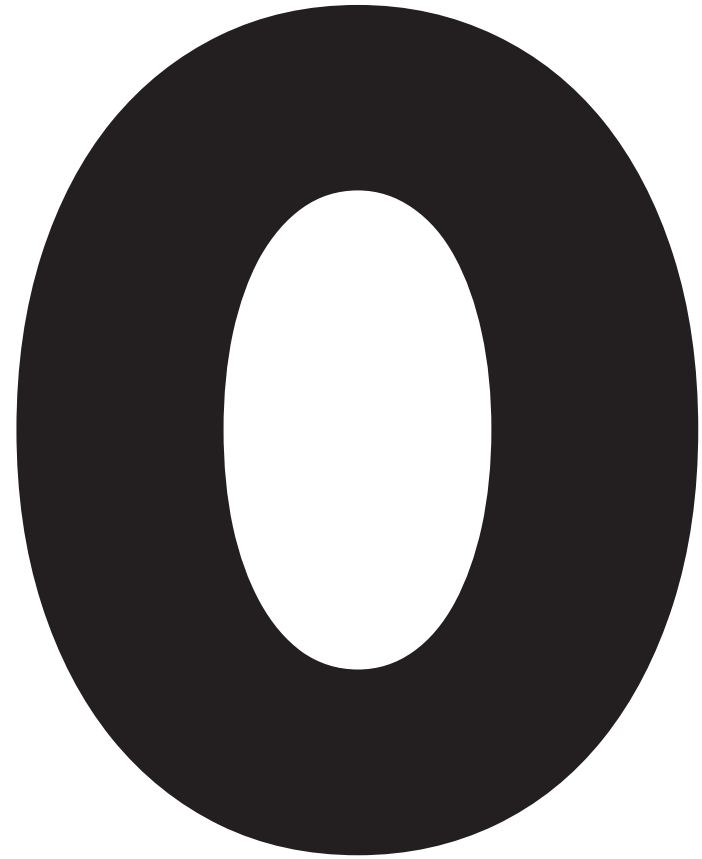
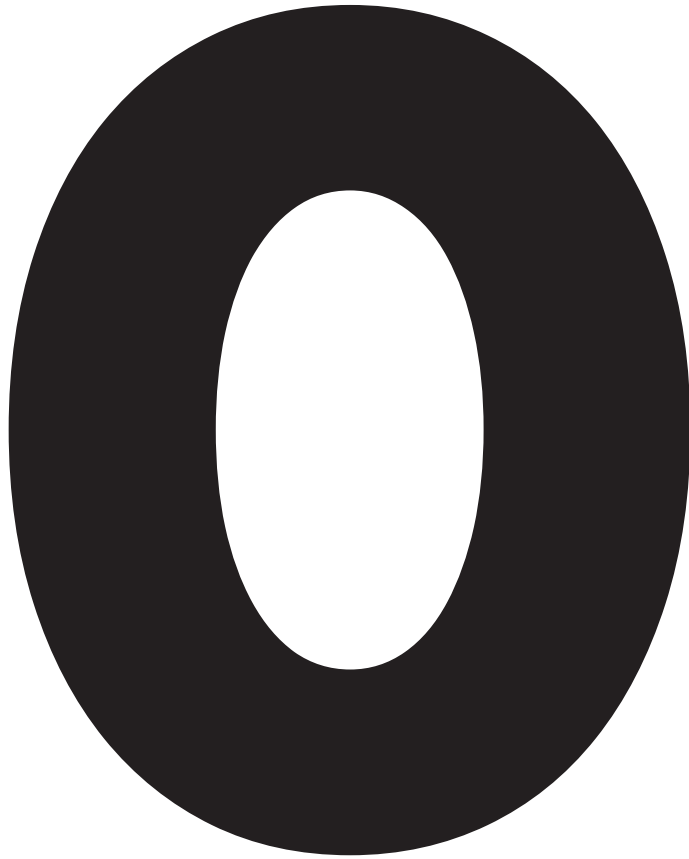


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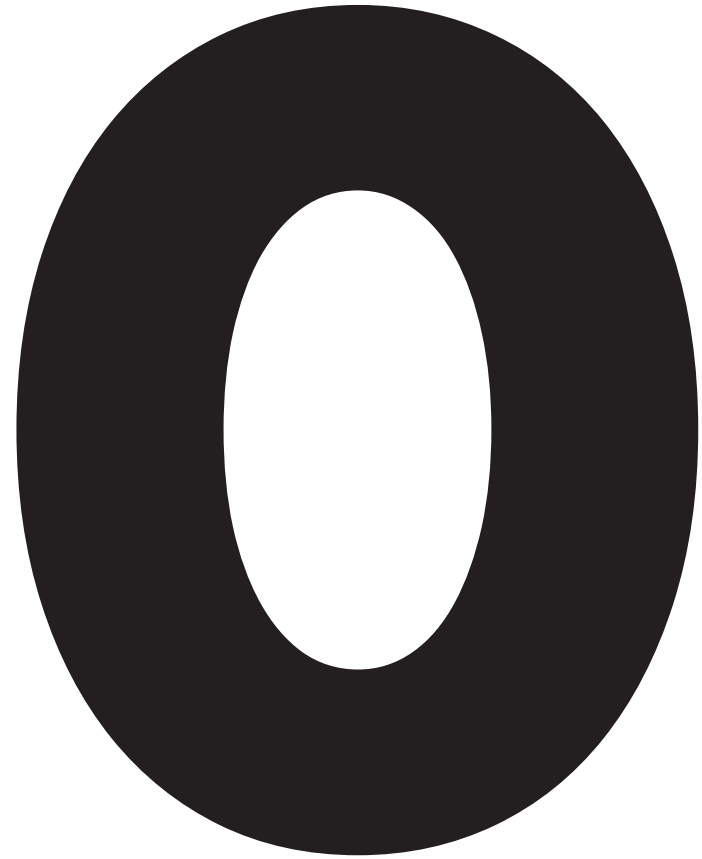
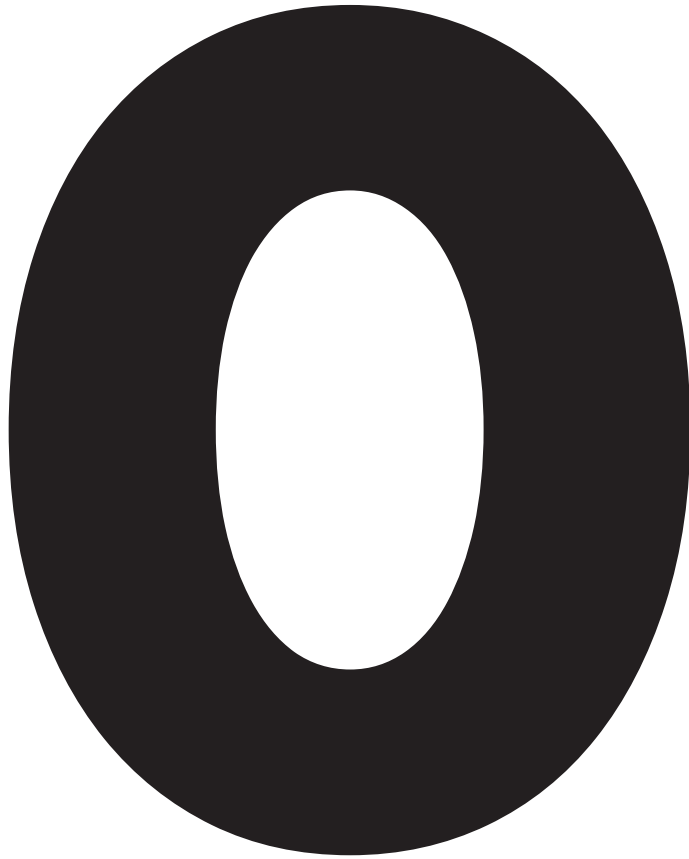


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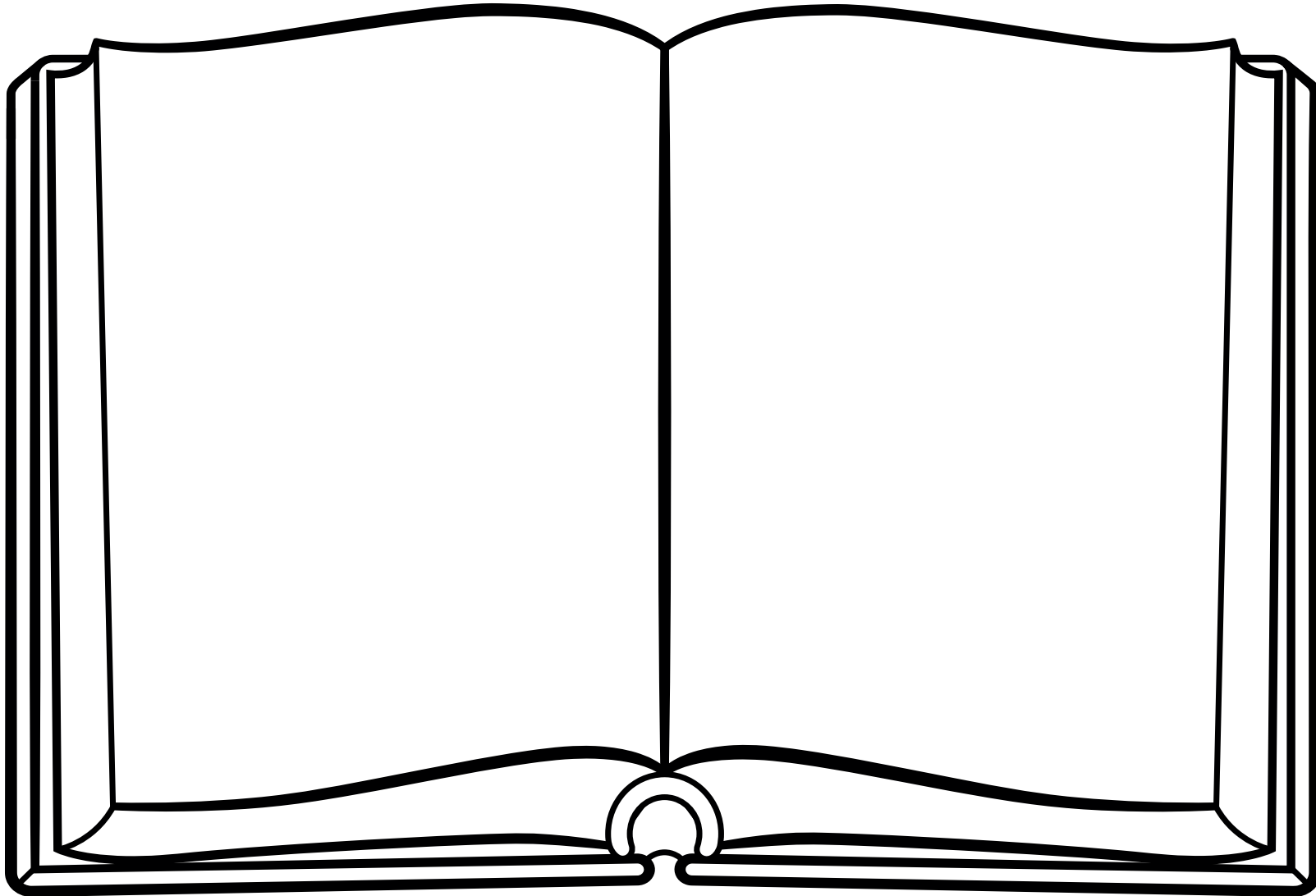
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Imagine if you had no Bible in your language. It could almost look blank like this!

Use this space to pray for those who do not have a Bible in their language. Pray for those who are helping them to do this.



Are you learning to read and write at school? Many children have to learn to read and write in a language that they don't know! This is how you can write '**God loves you**' in four different languages. Colour in the phrases below.

Spanish

Dios te ama

Lingala

Nzambe alingi yo

Are you learning to read and write at school? Many children have to learn to read and write in a language that they don't know! This is how you can write 'God loves you' in four different languages. Colour in the phrases below.

Russian

БОГ ЛЮБИТ ВАС

Bengali

আপনারি পছন্দ

করানে ভগবানের

Do you remember learning to read and write at school? Many children have to learn to read and write in a language that they don't really know! This is how you can write 'God loves you' in six different languages. Try to copy the words by writing on the lines below each one. Some are harder than others!

French

## Dieu t'aime

---

Russian

## Бог любит вас

---

Tagalog

## Mahal ka ng Diyos

---

Lingala

## Nzambe alingi yo

---

Spanish

## Dios te ama

---

Tagalog

## আপনি পছন্দ করেনে ভগবানের

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## So what does it look like to translate the Bible?

We are going to do a little bit today:

### Can I have 3 volunteers?

I have three words written on these sheets and I want you to help me translate them. Please have a look and help me make sure that I have them right.

**God loves you**                      123

**Dios ama te**                      switch order to 132                      Dios te ama

**God loves you**

**Nzambe alingi yo**                      order is back to 123

**God loves you**

**Dieu aime vous**                      switch order again to 132                      Dieu vous aime

Did you see how even though we had the French or the Spanish words, we still needed help to know what way to say them? Some people think that we can just type words into the computer and it tells us what they are in another language... but we need help from people who speak those languages to help us to put that all together in the right way so that it makes sense to them!

When we have good news, we want to share it. And we need to share it so that it makes sense.

If someone was to come here and say to you, 'God you loves', it would sound very strange! Or if at the end of today your leaders started shouting 'body time home every', instead of 'Home time, everybody!'

It would be a bit confusing!

If we have good news to share with people, it's important that we can tell them so that they understand. And we've been given really good news in the Bible. Because the Bible tells us about God.

When we realise that, by trusting Jesus and learning to live like him, God is not going to punish us for bad things, that's amazing news! That's news that we need to share with people so that they can trust Jesus too.

And it's very important that we use the right words, in the right language and in the right order so that it is clear for them to understand.

Wycliffe helps people to get a Bible in their own language so they can understand God's message.

### Do you have a Bible that you can read? Why not try it?

Let's pray now for people who are still waiting to read the Bible to find out who Jesus is. Let's ask God to help translators (people who write the Bible down in their own language) to get the right words in the right order so that people can understand it.

**Dios**

**(God)**



**te**

**(you)**

**ama**

**(loves)**

**Nzambe**  
**(God)**

**alingi**  
**(loves)**

**yo**

**(you)**

**Dieu**

**(God)**

**VOUS**

**(you)**

**aime**  
**(loves)**



**1. Saute sur un pied.**

**2. Frappez dans vos mains trois fois.**

**3. Se retourner deux fois.**

**1. [ ] on [ ] foot.**

**2. [ ] your hands [ ].**

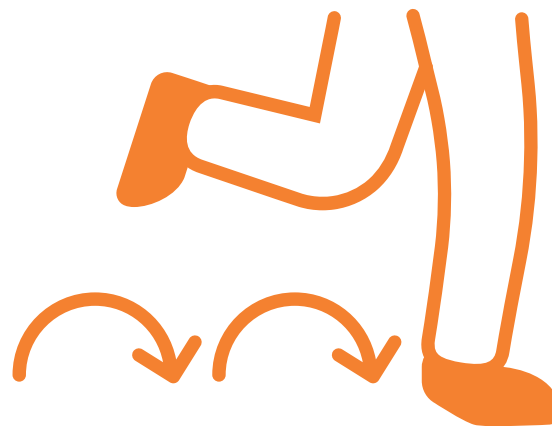
**3. Turn around [ ].**

**1. Hop on one foot.**

**2. Clap your hands three times.**

**3. Turn around twice.**

**1. Hop on one foot.**



**2. Clap your hands three times.**



**3. Turn around twice.**



**Kasi makambo oyo ekomami po bino  
bondima 'te Yezu azali Mesia, Mwana ya  
Nzambe.**

**Soki bondimi bongo, bokozwa  
bomoi na 'kombo na ye.**

**Yoane 20:31**

**The Kusaal enigma** The Kusaal enigma The Kusaal enigma We have some data based on Kusaal, a language spoken in northern Ghana. It has been slightly altered just for this exercise.

On the left-hand column there is some language data, and on the right a fairly literal but not absolutely word-for-word translation. Use the data to work out the answers to the questions at the bottom. Look for patterns and compare similar sentences to isolate particular elements.

## The clues

- 1 o gela bood she wants eggs
- 2 o sa'ab bood she wants porridge
- 3 po'a nyuur bood the woman wants a yam
- 4 o po'a gela mor his woman (wife) has eggs
- 5 o sid nyuur dite her husband is eating a yam
- 6 o gela dite he is eating eggs

## The questions

What are the words for:

1 eggs?

2 the woman?

3 wants?

4 a yam?

5 is eating?

**What various English meanings does the word 'o' have?**

**Translate 'he is eating porridge'.**

### Reminder

- |                    |                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 o gela bood      | she wants eggs              |
| 2 o sa'ab bood     | she wants porridge          |
| 3 po'a nyuur bood  | the woman wants a yam       |
| 4 o po'a gela mor  | his woman (wife) has eggs   |
| 5 o sid nyuur dite | her husband is eating a yam |
| 6 o gela dite      | he is eating eggs           |

### Answers

What are the words for:

- |              |       |        |
|--------------|-------|--------|
| 1 eggs?      | gela  | 1 mark |
| 2 the woman? | po'a  | 1 mark |
| 3 wants?     | bood  | 1 mark |
| 4 a yam?     | nyuur | 1 mark |
| 5 is eating? | dite  | 1 mark |

### What various English meanings does the word 'o' have?

- |        |        |
|--------|--------|
| 1. She | 1 mark |
| 2. his | 1 mark |
| 3. her | 1 mark |
| 4. he  | 1 mark |

### Translate 'he is eating porridge'.

o sa'ab dite 2 marks

Give yourself one mark if you got all the words right but in the wrong order.

Record your total out of 11.