

Introduction

This set of children's resources includes:

- | Four short illustrations useful for a children's address within the service or in a programme of activities for children's church:
 - | Box of Bibles
 - | The Uncle Cam story
 - | An important message
 - | Understanding instructions.

You will find the various flash cards and activity sheets for these illustrations towards the end of this document.

- | Three activities (for different age groups) that can be adapted to suit the format and time of your children's groups:
 - | 'God loves you' colouring and writing exercises
 - | 'God loves you' word jumble
 - | The Kusaal enigma activity.

1. Box of Bibles

This is a brief sketch to illustrate that there are people in the world who do not have the Bible in their own language.

You will need: a box filled with as many Bibles as possible; an empty box; and some a length of fabric so one child volunteer can dress up. Have a child ready 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.

[Enter the dressed-up child volunteer]

Hi! Have you seen my box of Bibles? I was wondering, how many Bibles do you have in your language?

[Child volunteer retrieves 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 work with local translators to translate the Bible into the languages of those who do not have it yet. They want everybody to know who Jesus is. How can people know who Jesus is if they don't even have a Bible?

2. The Uncle Cam story

This is a story about the person who started Wycliffe Bible Translators.

In 1917, a 19-year-old man called William Cameron Townsend 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 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 yet.

There was no Bible available in Cakchiquel. Over the next



17 years, Cameron – 'Uncle Cam' as he became known – learned their language and translated the New Testament into Cakchiquel so the people could know God and worship him in the language that they understood best.

3. An important message

For this activity, you will need: the flash cards; the Lingala activity sheet; the blank Bible activity sheet; and an envelope marked 'Important'.

Have the printed message ready in an envelope marked 'Important'. Build up excitement about what the message might say. Ask for a volunteer to open it and read the message. The message will be a verse written in a different language, eg:

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, a language in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. **We have a provided an activity sheet with this verse.**)

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 is a really 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, we need to be punished but the Bible explains how Jesus was punished instead so that we wouldn't have to be.

So this verse simply tells us why the Bible was written: 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 the world today who do not have a Bible, or the one they do have is in a language they don't understand.

3. An important message (continued)

In fact when I say *many*, I mean MANY! 1.5 billion people in fact. That's 1 in 5 people in the world still waiting for the Bible in their own language. 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? **[Use the number flash cards – volunteers to hold up one digit each in turn]**

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

Okay, 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!)** A lot of people who cannot read the Bible because it's not in their language. When they go to read it, it looks like this **[point to Lingala page]** does to you – and they don't understand what it says.

We are very fortunate to have had the Bible in English for many hundreds of years!

It's important that we remember people who still don't have the Bible in their own language. We can do that by praying:

- | First, we can ask God to help the translators who are working in teams to translate the Bible into those languages.
- | Second, we can ask that soon they will be able to read about Jesus in the Bible in their own language.

We can also do it by supporting people who are translating the Bible by writing to them or by raising some money to help them in their work.

We're going to start by praying for them.

Writing activity

Write a prayer for people who don't yet have the Bible in their own language. If you want, you can do this in the blank Bible sheets **[have copies of the blank Bible activity sheet ready]**.

4. Understanding instructions

For this activity, you will need the four activity sheets titled 'Understanding instructions'.

Ask for a volunteer to read some instructions and carry them out – but **give them the instructions sheet 1 (in French)**. They (probably) won't understand. Ask them if there are any words they recognise. Link it 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 sheet 2 (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 – encourage them to give several 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 the content.

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

Then **give the full instruction sheets 3 and 4 (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 reading difficult? What could we do that might help them to understand? There are lots of options: someone could read it to them, or show pictures, or play audio recordings. As well as translating the Bible, there are lots of teams working on Bible apps, audio recordings, films, and picture books. We want everyone to be able to hear what God has to say through his word.

Psalm 119:72

'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!

5. A taste of translation

This activity provides an opportunity for the children to experience what it is like to try to translate some words from one language to another.

There are three activities:

- | 'God loves you' colouring sheets and 'six languages' worksheets (for different school age groups)
- | 'God loves you' word jumble
- | The Kusaal enigma activity (for the upper primary school age group).

You will find the activity sheets for each of these activities towards the end of this document.

**NoBible
Sunday**

An important message: flash cards

1

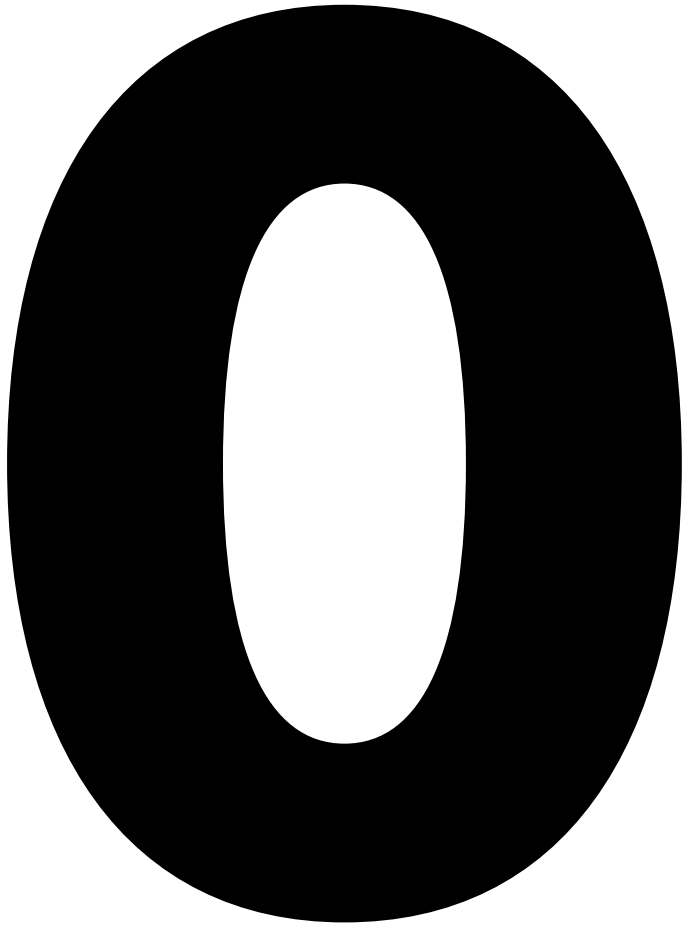
Flash cards

5

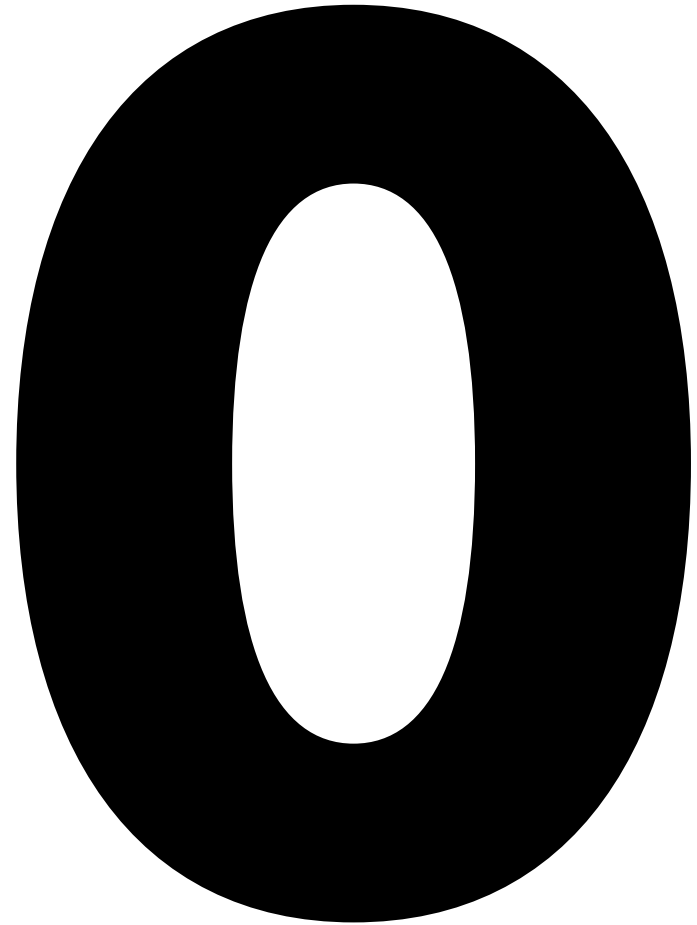
Flash cards

**NoBible
Sunday**

An important message: flash cards



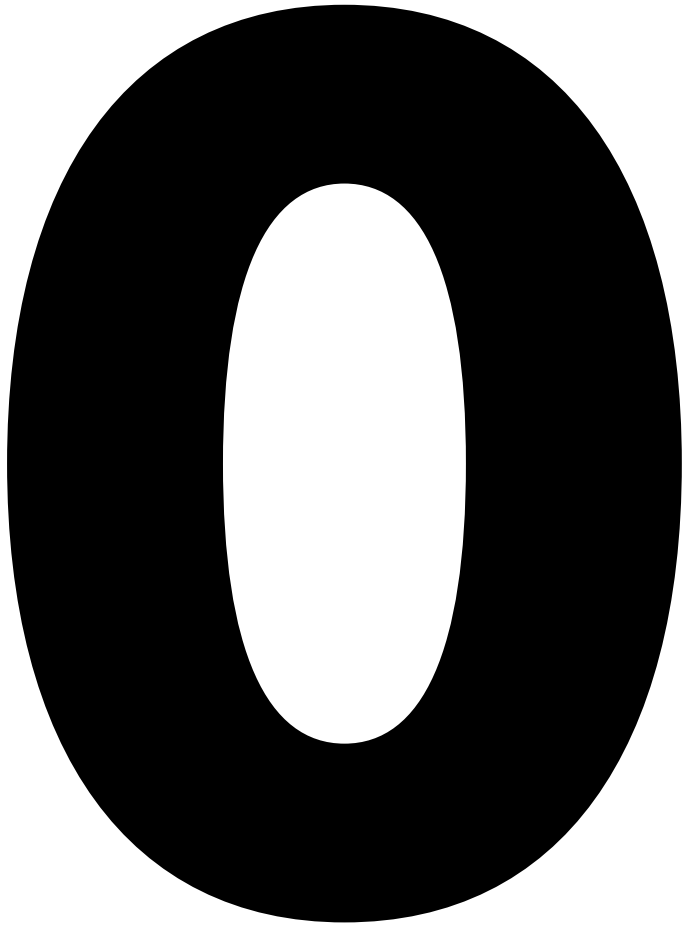
Flash cards



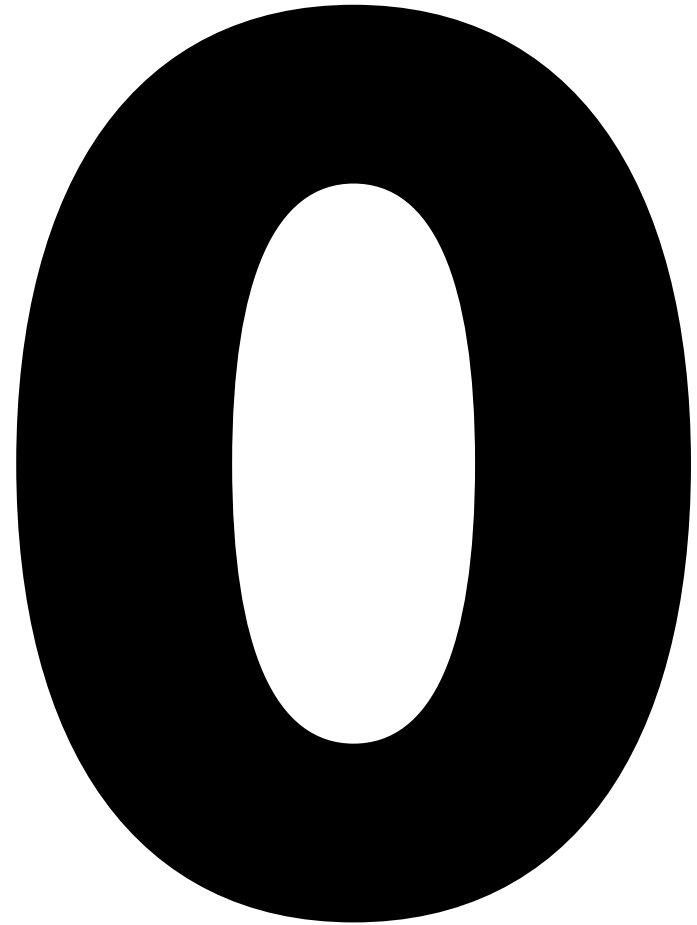
Flash cards

**NoBible
Sunday**

An important message: flash cards



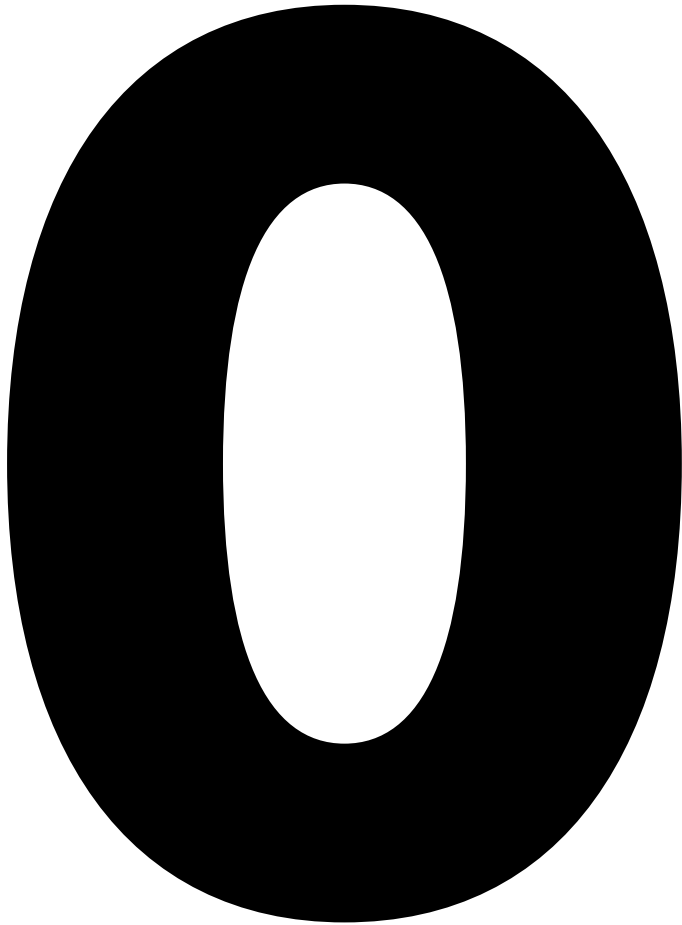
Flash cards



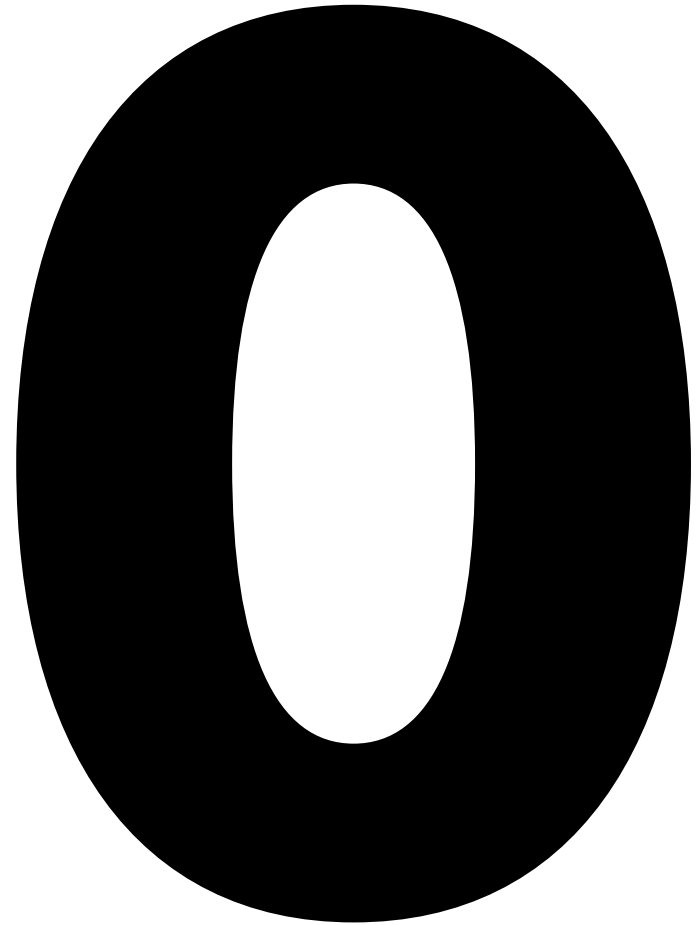
Flash cards

**NoBible
Sunday**

An important message: flash cards



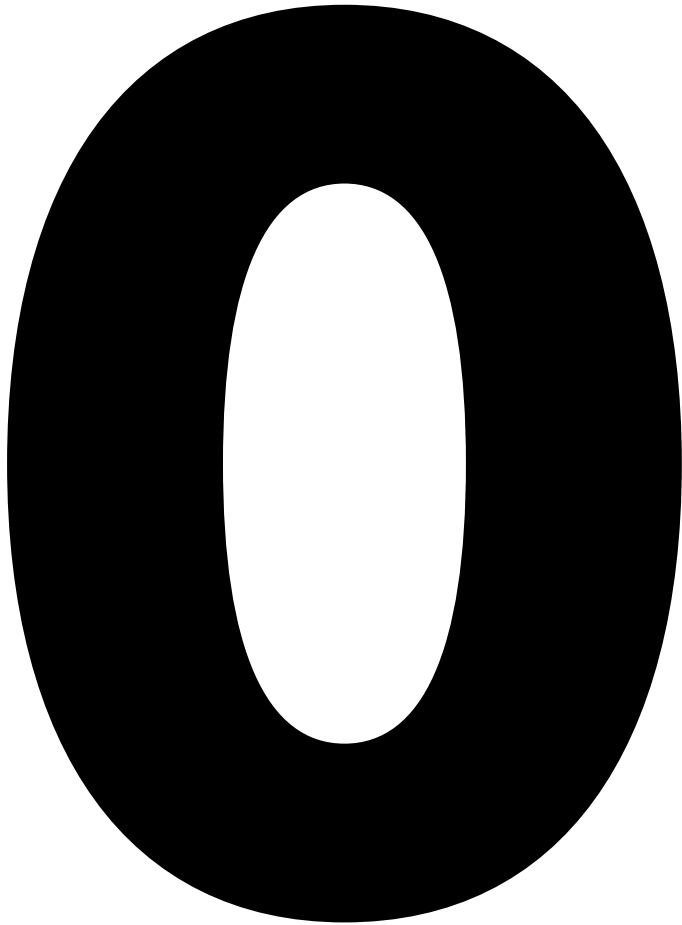
Flash cards



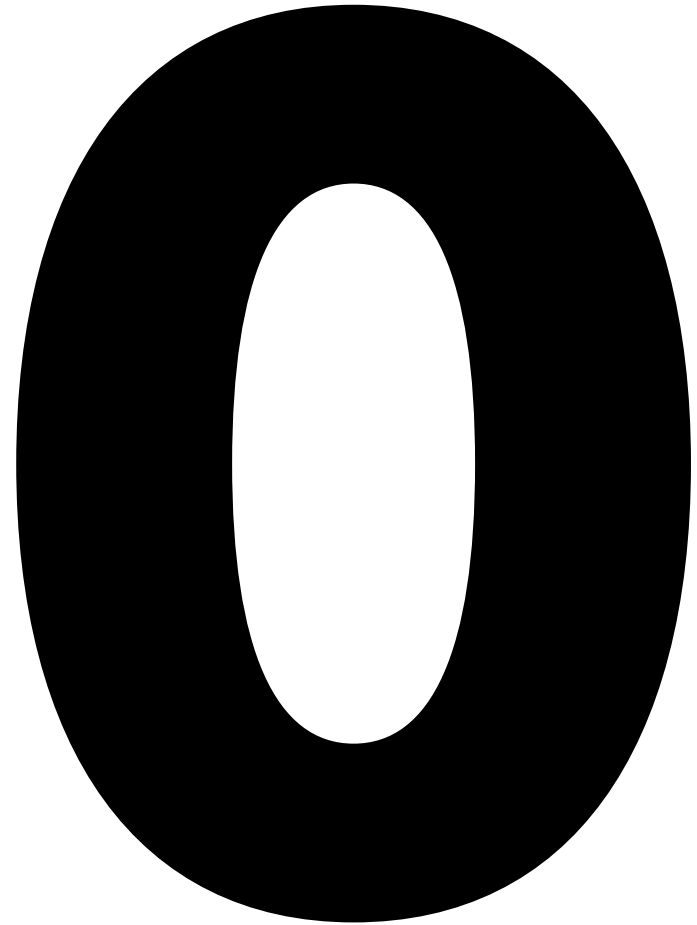
Flash cards

**NoBible
Sunday**

An important message: flash cards



Flash cards



Flash cards

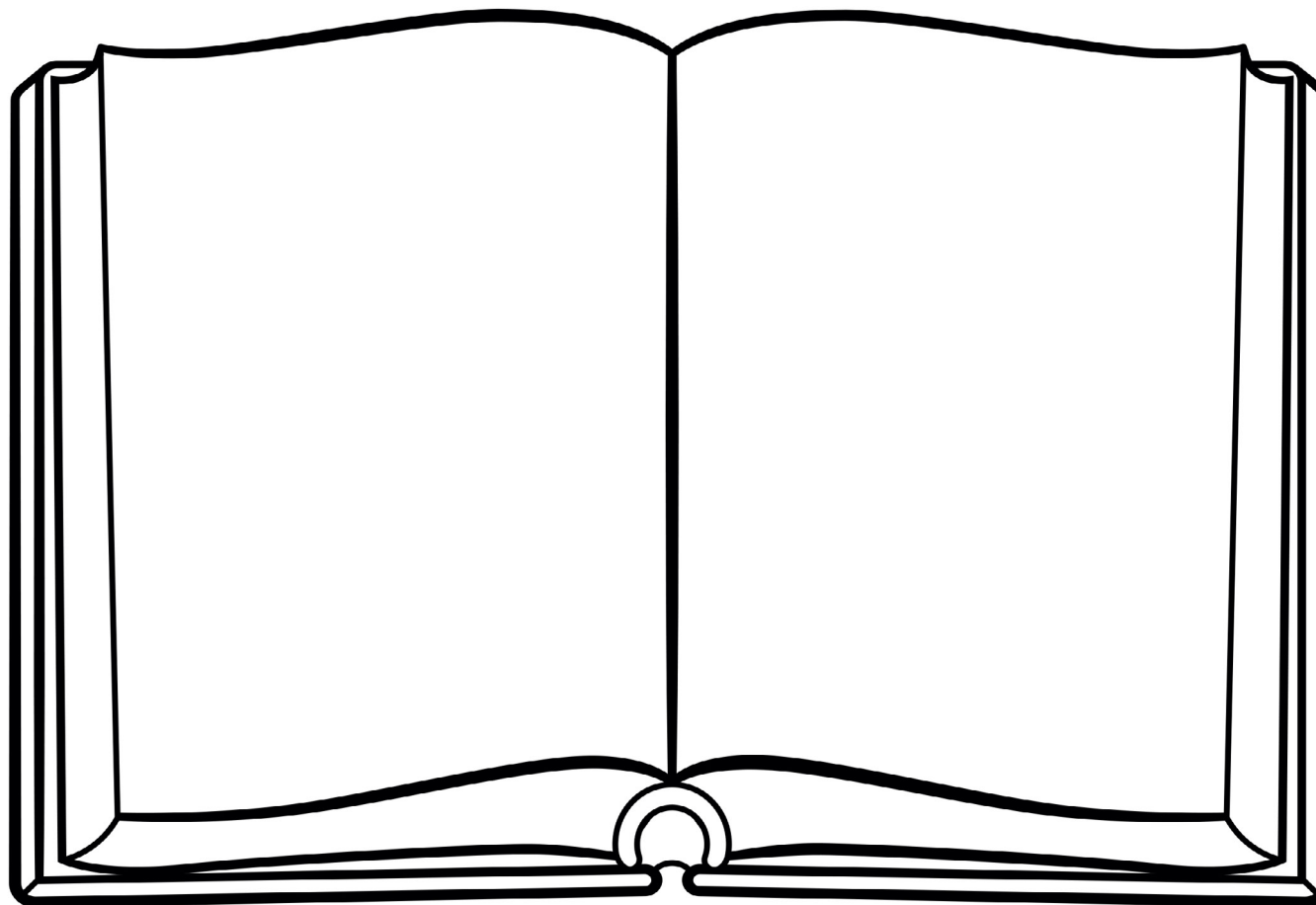
**Kasi makambo oyo ekomami po bino
bondima 'te Yezu azali Mesia, Mwana ya
Nzambe.**

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

Yoane 20:31

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

Use the empty pages of the book below to write your prayers for people who do not have a Bible in their language. Pray for those who are working with them to produce a Bible in their language.



- 1. Saute sur un pied.**
- 2. Frappez dans vos mains trois fois.**
- 3. Se retourner deux fois.**

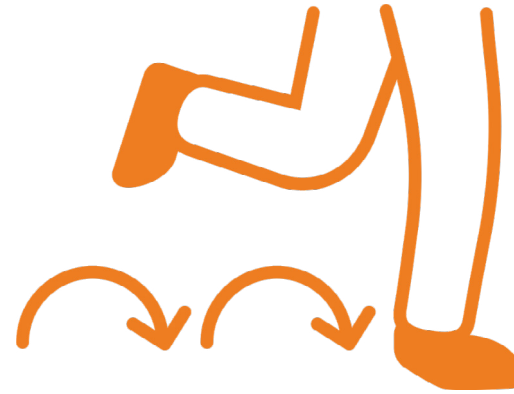
1. [] on [] foot.

2. [] your hands [].

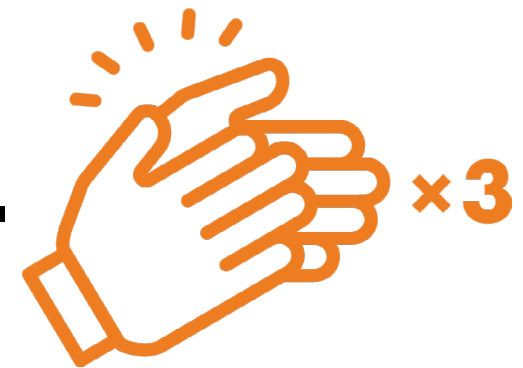
3. Turn around [].

- 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.



Are you learning to read and write at school? Many children have to learn to read and write in a language they don't understand!

This is how you 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 they don't understand!

This is how you 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 understand!

This is how you write 'God loves you' in six different languages. Try copying 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

Bengali

আপনি পছন্দ করেনে ভগবানের

So what does it look like to translate the Bible?

We are going to do some translating today:

Can I have three 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 they are right.

- | **God loves you** 123
- | **Dios ama te** *switch order to 132* Dios te ama
- | **Nzambe alingi yo** *order is back to 123*
- | **Dieu aime vous** *switch order to 132* Dieu vous aime

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

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

If someone said 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 sound 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 we use the right words, in the right language and in the right order so it's clear for them to understand.

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

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 in their own language so they can find out who Jesus is. Let's ask God to help translators (people who write down the Bible in their own language) to get the right words in the right order so people can understand it.

Dios
(God)

te

(you)

ama

(loves)

Nzambe
(God)

alingi
(loves)

yo

(you)

Dieu
(God)

vous

(you)

aime

(loves)

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.

In 'The clues' column there is some language data, followed by a fairly literal, but not absolutely word-for-word, translation.

Use the data in the clues and your answers to the quiz questions to work out the answers to the two questions in the yellow box. 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 Kusaal words for:

- 1 eggs?
- 2 the woman?
- 3 wants?
- 4 a yam?
- 5 is eating?

Quiz questions

1. Looking at the Kusaal phrases, what English meanings does the word 'o' have?
2. Translate 'he is eating porridge' into the Kusaal language.

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 Kusaal 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.

Grand total

Record your total out of 11.