



Buried Treasure?

Unearth God's riches this Bible Sunday

PRAYERS

Please draw from or incorporate any of the following prayers in your Bible Sunday service.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L With all my heart I seek you, God
A **With all our hearts we seek you.**

L Blessed are you, God
A **And blessed are those who learn your ways.**

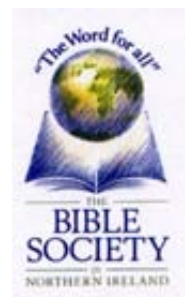
L I shall not forget your Word
A **We will treasure your truth in our hearts.**

L I do your will with great delight
A **We rejoice in your wisdom.**

L With all my heart I seek you, God
A **With all our hearts we seek you.**

CONFESSION

Loving God
you have given us so much –
your Word to guide us,
your love to heal us,
your spirit to encourage us –
and you have given us each other,
so that in community
we may embody your love in the world.
But we confess
that we often fail to live
as your chosen and beloved people.
Impatient and intolerant,
we fail to see your presence in the other person;
we hide precious truths which we hold in trust;
we let the possibility of peace slip through our fingers.
Loving and forgiving God
may we learn to forgive each other,
may we be open to the transforming power of your love,
may we be recreated as a people of peace. **Amen**





THANKSGIVING (1)

Giving God, Living Word,
We thank you for the treasure of your presence:
precious moments, time without pressure,
where all our busyness, our deadlines, are put into perspective;
where one short hour of worship
can fill with meaning and carry so much blessing:
Giving God, **We give thanks.**

Giving God, Living Word,
we thank you for the signs of your presence
in the world around us; every day
your creation opens like a great book,
telling of your creative power, there from the beginning,
and your abundant love, here and now:
Giving God, **We give thanks.**

Giving God, Living Word,
we thank you for time to read and reflect on the Scriptures:
words rooted in tradition but fresh for today,
riddles, parables, questions, hidden meanings,
songs welling up from the heart, laws to live by,
the story of your love embodied in Jesus;
set down in different languages but now speaking to us in our own tongue:
Giving God, **We give thanks.**

Generous God, Living Word,
we thank you for the gift of this day,
when we can make a commitment of time to each other –
time shared in song and prayer and fellowship
with our sisters and brothers,
in whose lives and wise words
we also read and hear your Word:
Giving God, **We give thanks. Amen**

THANKSGIVING (2)

Almighty God, we pause to acknowledge your goodness to us and that,
unworthy as we are, you have blessed us with all the fruits of this abundant
land. Among all the peoples of this world, we are among the most favoured as
you have also given us your Word in our language to savour and enjoy. While
everything around us seems to change outside our control, you speak to us
from Scripture in a way that helps us to grow in our understanding of you.
Help us as we read from the Bible today to be refreshed, to appreciate in a
new way just how richly blessed we are, and to sense what you would say to
us as we seek your guidance for our lives in your service.
In the name of Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**



INTERCESSION 1

Loving God, we pray for the whole world that you love,
the world in all its need:
remembering our sisters and brothers whose lives
are overshadowed by war, poverty, hunger and injustice.

May the leaders of the nations,
and ordinary people like ourselves,
be moved by your spirit to share resources,
take action for justice and live in peace with our neighbours:

May the gospel of Christ dwell among us, in all its richness,
In our lives, let there be love.

We pray for those to whom that gospel is still hidden,
because they have not read the Bible,
heard the good news preached, or seen its value..
May they learn of your love for all,
in ways that move their hearts and feed their minds.
And we pray for those who are still discovering hidden treasure:
Christians with minds open to learn,
eager to understand and to help others,
aware that in every person, every situation,
your love is buried like a seed, working like yeast.

May the gospel of Christ dwell among us, in all its richness,
In our lives, let there be love.

We pray for the work of Bible Society:
for its projects all over the world.
We remember with gratitude the people who do this work:
translators and administrators, lay workers and youth workers,
printers and artists and ministers, teachers and storytellers.
We pray that your Spirit of encouragement
may work with them and in them.
And we include ourselves, gathered in worship now,
a small part of this great work.

May the gospel of Christ dwell among us, in all its richness,
In our lives, let there be love.



INTERCESSION 2

Lord, we remember all those who have sought to overcome difficulties in making your Word available over recent months:

- Northern Ireland people involved in the printing and distribution of a first Bible for the Bassa tribe of Nigeria, in their language of *Rubassa*. We give you thanks that even in our own country, we can make it possible for a Bible to be printed in China and made available among a whole people group who have waited so long to receive it.
- Margaret Bohoussou, formerly from the Frosses near Ballymena, works as part of a translation team in Abidjan, the capital of the Ivory Coast. We pray that the work of her team will be richly blessed as they make the Bible text available in the languages of neighbouring countries. We ask that peace would come to Cote d'Ivoire so that Bible work would prosper and impact many lives for the Gospel.
- We pray for the people of Liberia who live in rural areas and we give thanks for the vehicle that has been provided to enable Scripture to reach them for the first time in many years, due to a long civil war. We ask, Lord, that you will bless each and every one who is contacted and speak to them through the Bibles that they receive.
- Our God, we commit to you the work that remains undone and ask that you will guide all those with resources so that they are used to meet the greatest Bible needs in our world today.

In the name of our Lord and Saviour. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF RESPONSE AND DISMISSAL

Living Word,
we thank you for all we have learned and shared,
in this act of worship, from many parts of the world,
of the richness of your presence among us,,
in the Scriptures and in the lives of others.
As we go out into familiar streets, to our homes,
the places where we work and meet our neighbours,
may we continue to discover this treasure,
and find ways to share it in our daily lives.

May God our Creator guide you on your way,
May Jesus our Saviour accompany you with love,
May the Spirit encourage you to go out and live the good news.
Amen.