

# 20 *Things* *You Can Do in Your Community to Celebrate* NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK™

Communities are strengthened and lives are renewed by the reading of the Bible. The celebration of National Bible Week is an annual opportunity to encourage everyone in your community to begin, or to begin again, to read the Bible.

Started in 1941, National Bible Week is celebrated from Sunday to Sunday of Thanksgiving week. Many national events highlight the importance of this week – such as the issuing of a Presidential message, the entering of statements into the Congressional Record, and our annual dinner in New York City. But the real celebration of National Bible Week happens when real people begin to read the Bible. Local activities focus the attention of the community on the Bible's spiritual, moral, and cultural values, and inspire people to engage the world's greatest book.

## *You can help encourage Bible reading in your community!*

Here are twenty activities and events that will encourage everyone to read the Bible for themselves. Get involved in as many of these activities and events as possible. We encourage you to assemble a broad-based group representing all faith traditions using the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. Adapt the suggestions below for your community. Share with us what you do and we'll feature it on our website. Email us at [rbeni@nationalbible.org](mailto:rbeni@nationalbible.org) or write us at National Bible Association, 405 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10174. 212-907-6427.

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**#1 Contact** local houses of worship. Help them obtain a Bible Week Resource Packet. Ask them to announce National Bible Week and locally planned Bible Week activities and events through bulletins, newsletters, bulletin boards, and in announcements at times of worship.

**#2 Ask** the clergy to preach a sermon during National Bible Week on the relevance of the Bible to a healthy community, our nation, and for meaningful personal living.

**#3 Organize** an interfaith service honoring the Bible at which several Bible passages are read, the hymns pay tribute to the Bible, and the sermon addresses the influence of the Bible in spiritual and moral issues, art, literature and music.

**#4 Ask** your governor to proclaim National Bible Week. Contact us for sample proclamations.

**#5 Encourage** your mayor to proclaim Bible Week. Work with your mayor or your mayor's press secretary to invite as many civic and religious leaders as possible to the signing of the proclamation and release a photo of the event to the local press.

**#6 Plan** a breakfast or dinner to celebrate and officially inaugurate Bible Week in your community. Consider honoring a local individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the Bible cause. Be sure to make readings from the Bible and a reading of The President's message for National Bible Week prominent program features.

**#7 Ask** your local billboard companies to display National Bible Association billboards. They are available free of charge. Contact us for more information.

**#8 Urge** your local bookstores to advertise Bible discounts and special promotions during National Bible Week.

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**#9 Request** your public librarian to create a display of available books about the Bible (commentaries, Bible atlases, study helps) or literature inspired by biblical themes.

**#10 Encourage** civic clubs such as Rotary, Lions, etc. to devote a meeting during National Bible Week to a speaker who will develop a Bible-related theme such as the variety of English translations, or the use of biblical principles in business, etc.

**#11 Arrange** for a community theater group or college drama club to perform a biblical play, or arrange for a free public showing of a film with a biblical theme.

**#12 Ask** a community choral group or organize a mass choir from several houses of worship to present a public concert in which all selections are musical settings of biblical texts.

**#13 Conduct** a Bible reading marathon – a cover to cover, non-stop reading of the entire Bible – in a public place such as the courthouse steps or in a shopping mall. The event takes approximately 90 hours.

**#14 Create** a ‘community Bible’ by asking individuals to hand-write the verses. In a larger community, youth groups of various houses of worship could each take responsibility for a book of the Bible. In a smaller community, portions of the Bible could be handwritten each year during November until the Bible is completed. The finished product might be presented and permanently displayed in the public library.

**#15 Enlist** volunteers to regularly read the Bible to the elderly who live alone or in retirement or nursing homes.

**#16 Organize** a drive to collect used Bibles to be sent to people who cannot afford to purchase a Bible of their own. Contact your state or regional Bible society or the Bible Foundation for additional information on where and how to ship the used Bibles you collect.

**#17 Secure** permission to use display cases at local shops or churches to create a public display of unique Bibles owned by community residents – antiques, large, small, different languages, diglots (two languages in one edition), one carried through a war.

**#18 Write** a letter to the editor of your local newspaper explaining how the Bible has impacted American culture and why it is important to celebrate National Bible Week.

**#19 Provide** copies of National Bible Week public service radio announcements to each radio station in your community. Enlist a local business person to hand deliver the spots to the station managers. Contact us at [rbeni@nationalbible.org](mailto:rbeni@nationalbible.org) to obtain the spots.

**#20 Send** press releases to all local media including information about each of the local activities you have planned. Be sure to provide the name of a contact person. A sample press release is included in the National Bible Week Resource Packet.

## NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK™

*Sunday to Sunday of Thanksgiving week  
each year.*

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