

# Creative Uses for Adults and Youth

YOU'VE GOT  
THE TIME

A Journey of Biblical Faithfulness

By Brian Foreman

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

Perhaps not all of your congregants will understand the value of listening to the New Testament for 40 days. In this section you will find creative ways for using the resource at your disposal, as well as ways to introduce the value of hearing God's Word on a regular basis.

## *Use with Sunday School*

1. Rather than having people read a few verses at a time as you work your way around the room, play the portion of the text from the audio. Not everyone is able to read the text with the inflection that makes it come alive. Let these MP3s do it for you.
2. When studying a particular part of the world through the Biblical text or issue addressed in the Sunday School lesson, play the scripture in the language native to that area.
3. Encourage listeners to hear the story, choosing a word or character that resonates with them. Explore why that selection resonates.
4. Use the readings as Lectio Divina.

## *Use as Summer Program*

1. Incorporate listening to the text over the summer in various languages and have small fellowship dinners around the international cuisine of the week. Talk about what field personnel are doing in that area.
2. Invite local international communities to share their culture through their native art and have scripture readings played in the language of the guests and in English. Design a missional emphasis about how the Gospel can be shared in different communities through art (visual, performance, music).
3. Offer challenge groups for people to listen in English for 40 days or more, like book clubs. Offer incentives for families to listen together. Summer television is all reruns anyway.

## *Use as Mission Trip Component*

1. If you are sending a group somewhere, even if in the United States, choose the native language to hear the scripture read in worship as a means of remembering and supporting your group as they are away. It is a great way to remember, support and pray for them daily if you chose specific texts for a daily prayer time.
2. Each day as teams travel to worksites or have devotional thoughts in the morning, play scriptures of the call to be disciples, to care for the poor and oppressed, or about being the Body of Christ.

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## *Youth Programs*

The World Wide Web and the global economy have shrunk the world. The corners of the world are not so far away any longer. In fact, it may be represented in your local schools. In Charlotte, N.C., the school system recognizes students from 150 countries. While your community may not be Charlotte, you can safely assume that your students are in touch with the world around them.

1. Create a program discussing the world being at your doorstep, considering how international influences flavor food, art, music and fashion. Play clips of the Great Commission in several languages. Have the discussion around a meal catered with food from a local ethnic restaurant.
2. Encourage students to listen to a set of scriptures each day in English and another language. Give them creative questions to research online about the cultures you choose, seeking ways in which they see Christianity in those countries.
3. Partner with a church that speaks another language as their first language. Have worship together (half in English, half the other language). Use audio readings of the scriptures.
4. Have a lesson series about accessibility around issues like blindness, poverty and illiteracy. Each week students need to think of how the topic mentioned inhibits many from hearing the Word of God. For the blind, there are Braille bibles, but how do audio recordings enhance accessibility? For the impoverished, both in America and abroad, how can poverty create inaccessibility to hearing and experiencing the Word of God? For the illiterate, the connection is more obvious, but what about the people groups who have no written language or place to learn to read.
5. Encourage students to listen to the Scriptures as they run, bike, or exercise, interspersed with music that fit the themes of scripture. You may want to create custom playlists around the love of God (as an example), rotating songs and scriptures.

## **Reflection Questions for the 40 Days'**

1. What did God want me to hear today?
2. How do I take what I just heard and put it to action in my life?
3. How am I blessed and how do I share from that abundance?
4. How is my faith growing from hearing the Word?