

The First Full Sign Language Bible

Have you ever waited for something for a long time? And not just for a few hours, like when Mom or Dad says you can't have ice cream until after you finish your dinner. Can you imagine waiting for years and years?

That's what it's like for hundreds of Deaf communities around the world. They've been waiting for years and years to get the best treat ever: the Bible!

American Sign Language (ASL) is the first sign language to get the whole Bible.* The Deaf community waited for 39 years for the full Bible to be translated into American Sign Language — that's way longer than you've been alive!

You might be wondering why the American Deaf community couldn't read the Bible in English. Well, it's not quite as simple as that. Deaf people use their eyes, facial expressions and hands to communicate with each other. They might know how to read and write, but that's not the language or format they understand clearly or that makes an impact on their hearts. What really impacts their hearts is when they're able to see the Bible come to life, and that happens through a video format.

And in the fall of 2020, the ASL Bible was completed! The American Deaf community now can understand how much God loves them because his Word is available in the language and the format they clearly understand. And that's what we want for people all around the world!

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Putting Scripture Into Action

Psalm 130:5 says, **“I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope” (NIV)**. The American Deaf community waited for the Bible for a long time, and hundreds of other sign languages around the world are still waiting!

To remind you to pray for Deaf Bible translation around the world, let’s learn the alphabet in ASL! You can then fingerspell your name, or short words like “hope” from Psalm 130:5, to remind you to pray for Deaf communities around the world who need to experience the hope we find in Jesus.

(You can also visit **deaf.bible** to see a video of this passage in American Sign Language. How cool!)

