



Why do we need a Bible in BSL?

Many people do not initially understand why Deaf people would need a Bible in BSL and ask why Deaf people cannot effectively read the Bible in English.

Since the Hebrew Scriptures were translated into the Septuagint for the Greek-speaking people, communities have wanted Biblical text in their own language. This has led to Bible translation into many different languages, for people throughout the world. Of course, this desire and need is true for communities of people who are Deaf and who use a sign language as their first or preferred language. While many people groups now have a Bible in their own language, the Deaf Community in Britain are still waiting.

Many Deaf people find reading English difficult; it is hard to learn English without access to the sounds of the language from birth. However, Deaf people do have their own naturally evolving, indigenous language – British Sign Language! Deaf people vary in their understanding of written English, some Deaf people in the UK are bilingual in BSL and English, but they still long for a Bible that is theirs, in their 'heart' language.