

# Sri Lanka



## Literacy for the Young

**Project: 102480**  
**Tax Deductible**



### Overview

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Each year, the Ceylon Bible Society aims to run literacy classes through the network of churches and Christian organisations in Sri Lanka, especially in rural, slum and undeveloped areas. These classes offer reading, listening and writing skills to non-literate youth and children in Sri Lanka so they can contribute to the development of their communities as well as increase their ability to learn and understand Scriptures.

### The Need

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Despite the official literacy rate for Sri Lanka — 92.3% in 2019, in a population of 21.4 million people — there are still a significant number of people in rural and undeveloped areas and among ethnic minority groups who do not have proper access to education. These include underprivileged children and youth. The financial crises of 2022 have increased their needs, with 28% of the population facing food insecurity and the poverty rate doubling in the last year.

Churches have been trying to assist children lacking in basic literacy skills with various literacy programs. Yet these churches have lacked a systematic approach and have asked for Bible Society's assistance.

# 21.4m

people living in Sri Lanka

# 1.25m

adult non-literates in Sri Lanka

# 7.67%

of people in Sri Lanka are Christians

*Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.*

**- Proverbs 31:8, NIV**

## Goals

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The goal of this project is to provide reading, listening and writing skills to non-literate youth and children for their development, community participation and access to Scripture. These include children from underprivileged backgrounds and ethnic minorities ranging from those who are yet to learn to read and write and those struggling to do so.

The classes will be run in the Sinhala and Tamil languages and include reading Scripture through simple Bible stories (both printed and digital), explaining stories from the Bible and Christian books, and covering simple teachings of Jesus, Gospel parables, songs and other audio material.

In 2025 the project aims to target 800+ students for literacy. There will be a focus on reproducing and distributing primers one and two in Tamil, as well as distributing a third primer. The project will train teachers in childcare and development. The project will also provide eye testing and free spectacle distributions, a dental program and a literacy day program.

## Testimony

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*"When I first came to this class, my reading skills were not that great. But now, I can proudly say that I have improved a lot. The teachers here are amazing! ... They care about us and want us to succeed. They have also taught us important things like moral values and good habits ... We also learn biblical stories, how to love and respect God, and we even sing praises to God ... I'm so grateful for all the things I've learned here."* — a Student from a Methodist church in Kandapola

## Prayer Points

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- Pray for the ongoing financial support for this project so that it may continue in the future.
- Pray for the Bible Society Literacy team as they travel through the country, training and implementing the program.
- Pray that the literacy students would be empowered as they learn to read the word of God.

## Impact

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In 2024, this literacy project provided each class with Literacy, pens, notebook, crayons, colour pencils, and drawing books. Ceylon Bible Society continued to work on producing the Literacy Workbook Level 1, 2 and 3, including the teachers' books for their syllabus.

The project impacted 956 students and trained 76 teachers in 2024. Aside from learning literacy skills, the students have learned good manners, cleanliness and come to an understanding of God's love. At the end of this project, the Ceylon Bible Society expects to have impacted 1,200 beneficiaries.