



# Bible Access List

Where Bible access is most difficult, and Bible shortage is greatest

# Lebanon

Bible Restrictions Rank: **64**  
**MINIMAL ACCESS RESTRICTIONS**

Bible Shortage Rank: **52**  
**Bible needs estimate between twenty five and fifty thousand**



## An Overview of Bible access in Lebanon

Lebanon's Christian population, estimated at nearly 1.9 million, makes up around 36% of the country's 5.2 million residents. While Bible access is relatively open for traditional Christians in most parts of the country, the situation is far more complex than it appears.

Though Lebanon does not impose legal restrictions on the import or ownership of Bibles for Christians, practical and social barriers continue to block access. In Muslim-majority areas, covering more than half the country, Bible distribution is not legally banned, but it is met with significant hostility. These areas include Tripoli, the Bekaa Valley (especially among Syrian and Palestinian refugee camps), parts of southern Lebanon under Hezbollah control, and the southern suburbs of Beirut like El Dahye. Outreach or visible Christian activity in these regions is often considered provocative and can trigger societal backlash or even violence.

The risks are especially high for Muslim Background believers (MBBs), who represent a small but vulnerable segment of the Christian population. For these believers, even possessing a Bible can result in harassment, rejection, or physical danger, particularly in conservative communities where conversion is seen as betrayal. In regions like the Bekaa Valley, MBBs face threats not only from their families but also from local clans and radical religious groups.

Despite these challenges, Lebanon's high internet penetration and high literacy rate provide a powerful avenue for digital Bible access. These channels can offer discreet and effective ways to reach younger believers and those in restrictive areas, especially MBBs or Christians in volatile regions.

Before we continue, would you take a pause to pray for Lebanon?

### How can I pray for Lebanon?

- **Provision for Bible Shortage.** Pray for the fulfillment of Bible shortages, especially in economically disadvantaged and hard-to-reach areas. Let's pray that every believer has the chance to own and study their Bible.
- **Global Partnership.** Pray that God would raise up and bless global partnerships that implement innovative solutions, overcoming the logistical and cultural barriers. Pray for collaborations that respect cultural sensitivities while effectively meeting spiritual needs.
- **Economic Breakthrough and Peace.** Pray for an economic breakthrough that fosters a more open atmosphere in predominantly Muslim communities where the distribution and acceptance of Bibles are currently met with resistance. Ask for a spirit of tolerance and mutual respect to prevail across diverse religious landscapes in Lebanon.

After praying for Lebanon, continue reading on the next page to learn more.

### Bible Access Restrictions

#### Minimal Access Restrictions

- Import restrictions for part of population
- Print restrictions for part of population
- Storage restrictions for part of population
- Ownership restrictions for part of population
- Distribution restrictions for part of population

### Other Limiting Factors

#### Some Other Factors

- Pockets of poverty
- Poor infrastructure

### Bible Shortages Among Believers

Bible ownership is over 50%  
**estimated** Bible need is between 25 and 50 thousand

**Main religion:** Islam

**Country population:** 5,219,000

**Christian population:**

1,888,000, 36.18% of total population

**World Watch List: #74**

# WHAT'S BLOCKING BIBLE ACCESS IN LEBANON?

Although Lebanon officially allows religious freedom, the reality on the ground is far more complex. In areas controlled by Hezbollah and other Islamist factions, Christians, particularly MBBs or converts from the Druze faith, face a volatile mix of opposition from their own families, community members, and political forces. These environments are shaped by strong sectarian divides, where revealing one's Christian faith—let alone owning or distributing a Bible—can lead to severe social, economic, or even physical repercussions.

## Daily Risks and Barriers to Access

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MBBs or Druze backgrounds who have converted to Christianity are especially vulnerable. If their conversion becomes known, they risk threats, exclusion, beatings, loss of inheritance, or even being reported to militant groups like Hezbollah for forced reversion efforts. In the Bekaa Valley and other conservative areas like Tripoli, South Beirut (El Dahye), and Hezbollah-controlled territories, MBBs and churches ministering to them often face violent opposition. In extreme cases, female MBBs risk honor-based violence and confinement by family members.

In 2024 alone, multiple churches across Mount Lebanon were vandalized in a series of coordinated burglaries. Mobs linked to Shiite groups also attacked Christian shops and villages, leaving behind desecrated religious symbols and damaged property. These incidents are not isolated; they form part of a broader strategy of intimidation meant to instill fear and suppress Christian presence.

## MBBs in the Crosshairs

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The most severe restrictions are felt by MBBs, especially Syrian refugees who have embraced Christianity. These individuals are frequently ostracized by their clans and communities and, in some cases, reported to extremist groups for retribution. In the conservative Bekaa Valley, such MBBs often practice their faith in secrecy, fearful of violent backlash or financial abandonment by family abroad.

Even in Christian-majority areas, political and sectarian tensions fuel indirect barriers. Christian organizations and churches involved in evangelistic or humanitarian work, especially those engaging with Muslims, are frequently hindered from distributing Bibles during outreach efforts in Muslim areas. Public Bible distribution is not illegal but is discouraged in regions where it could be seen as provocative.

## Economic Collapse and Infrastructure Failure

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Compounding these risks is Lebanon's ongoing economic crisis, with over 44% of the population living in poverty and rampant unemployment pushing families into survival mode. In this fragile setting, affording or accessing a Bible becomes a secondary concern for many, especially in rural areas.

# Unmasking the Forces That Restrict Bible Access in Lebanon

Lebanon	Islamic Oppression	Religious Nationalism	Ethno-religious hostility	Clan oppression	Christian denominational oppression	Communist and post-Communist oppression	Secular intolerance	Dictatorial paranoia	Organized corruption and crime
<b>Persecution Engines →</b>									
<b>Persecution Drivers ↓</b>	Strong	Not at all	Not at all	Medium	Weak	Not at all	Not at all	Very weak	Weak
Government officials	++				+			++	++
Ethnic group leaders									
Non-Christian religious leaders	+			+				+	
Christian religious leaders					++				
Violent religious groups	++							++	+
Normal citizens	+++			+++					+++
Extended family	+++								
Political parties	++							++	++
Revolutionaries or paramilitary groups	++							++	++
Organized crime	+								+
Multilateral org. & Embassies	+								

**Reference**

The more fully shaded the circle in orange, the stronger the level of persecution. The number of "+" signs indicates the frequency or intensity of the driving factors behind it.

Very Strong

Strong

Medium

None

In Lebanon, the most significant forces of persecution that hinders Bible access involve **Islamic oppression** and **clan oppression**. These forces do not operate in isolation. They often blend together and are driven mostly by normal citizens and extended family.

Now, we can go deeper to ask the question: How does this affect Bible access? Furthermore, where can we pinpoint the problem so we can address the need and demand for Bibles in Lebanon?

## A CLOSER LOOK AT PERSECUTION ENGINES

A persecution engine is simply this: the source of persecution in the country. A persecution driver (or actor) is the one “driving” the persecution. Taking a closer look at these engines and drivers, in proper context, will give us insight on how we can solve the problems of Bible access in the country.



### Restricting Christianity Through Fear, Control, and Extremism

The most dominant persecution engine restricting Bible access in Lebanon is Islamic oppression. This force primarily targets MBBs, particularly in regions such as the Bekaa Valley, Tripoli, South Beirut, and Hezbollah-controlled areas. In these locations, Islamic identity is closely tied to family and community life, and leaving Islam is considered both a spiritual betrayal and a social crime.

MBBs often face threats, harassment, and physical violence for possessing Bibles or engaging in Christian worship. Women MBBs may be locked in their homes, subjected to forced marriages, or beaten until they recant their faith. Young male MBBs can also face beatings, humiliation, and death threats, particularly in refugee communities and conservative areas.

Increased Islamic radicalization since 2023 has further intensified this persecution. Christian churches and properties have become frequent targets—at least 10 churches were vandalized in January 2024 alone—and many attacks on Christian areas are reportedly motivated by extremist ideologies or designed to intimidate and drive out Christian presence.

Groups like Hezbollah are especially influential in amplifying Islamic oppression. While not formally part of the government, they exercise significant control through military power, financial networks, and political alliances. Their tight grip over Shia-majority areas results in a climate of fear, particularly for Christians ministering among MBBs or operating in Hezbollah-held zones. Distribution of Christian materials, including Bibles, is often hindered or stopped altogether in these areas due to perceived risks of “incitement”.



### **Silencing MBBs Through Loyalty, Honor, and Shame**

In Lebanon, clan oppression is also deeply rooted in society and reinforces the pressure already exerted by Islamic oppression. Especially within Shia and Druze communities, clan identity is sacred and converting to Christianity is seen as betraying the family and the tribe.

The consequences for MBBs are often severe. Families disown, isolate, or even violently retaliate against members who leave Islam or the Druze faith. Common tactics include emotional blackmail, forced displacement, and the loss of inheritance or custody rights. These patterns are especially prominent outside of Beirut, in more tribal or conservative areas like the Bekaa Valley, where local norms often override national law.

Among Syrian refugee communities, many of whom operate under strict clan and extended family networks, the situation is even more intense. MBBs are often cut off financially by relatives abroad or are reported to militant groups like Hezbollah, who then apply additional pressure through intimidation or threats of violence.

Because of this deeply ingrained loyalty to clan and heritage, MBBs often hide their faith, making it difficult for them to access Bibles, attend church, or receive discipleship. Churches and ministries working with MBBs must do so in discretion, knowing that being exposed could provoke community backlash.

In many cases, clan oppression is the reason why Bibles remain hidden or inaccessible, even in regions where religious freedom is officially upheld. The social cost is simply too high. Without serious support, many believers in these situations are left without Scripture, community, or spiritual guidance.

# THE NEED FOR BIBLES IN LEBANON

Against the backdrop of growing hostility, deepening poverty, and a declining Christian presence, Bible access is estimated at 50–70% of the believers. To meet the needs of both believers and seekers, it's estimated that at least **25,000 Bibles** are needed across the country.

## A Declining Church In Desperate Need of God's Word

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The urgency of this need is heightened by the fact that Lebanon's Christian population is not growing. In fact, it has declined by approximately in recent years due to displacement, emigration, and the ongoing conflict with Hezbollah and extremist factions.

As Christians flee violence or leave the country in search of stability, those who remain face an increasingly hostile environment where access to spiritual resources like the Bible is not just scarce, but often risky.

## Bible Formats for Unique Needs

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In terms of Bible formats, **printed Bibles** remain the top priority, particularly in rural and conflict-affected areas where internet access is disrupted by power outages and infrastructure challenges. While Lebanon has a relatively high internet penetration rate, many regions—especially those hit by conflict or hosting large refugee populations—suffer from unstable connections and frequent electricity shortages.

For those with access to digital platforms, accessing Bibles through the internet can provide a crucial supplement, especially for young believers and urban churches.

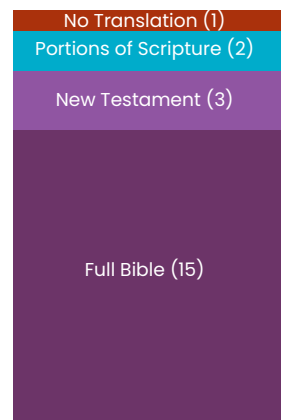
## The Translation Gap

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Linguistic diversity adds another layer of complexity. Christians in Lebanon speak at least 21 different languages. Of these languages:

- Only **15** of these have a full Bible translation.
- **3** languages have only the New Testament.
- **2** have just a portion of Scripture translated.
- **1** language has no Bible translation at all

These gaps leave entire communities without access to God's Word in their heart language, further crippling discipleship, outreach, and spiritual growth.



Spoken Languages with Believers in Lebanon

# THE CLARION CALL

The need for Bibles in Lebanon is not just a logistical concern, it is a mission for the international Christian community. It echoes the cry of a remnant church striving to stand firm amidst conflict, intimidation, and decline.

In a country where churches are vandalized, Christian villages threatened, and believers isolated, the simple gift of a Bible can offer hope, strength, and the unshakable reminder that they are not forgotten.

Now is the time for the global Church to respond. Through coordinated translation efforts, diverse format distribution, and bold support for believers on the front lines, we can meet the call. Every Bible delivered is more than paper and ink; it's a declaration that light still shines in the darkness, and the Word of God still has the power to comfort, guide, and transform.

Let us not delay. Lebanon needs the Bible. Let's ensure they receive it.



**-2.1%**  
Annual Church  
Growth



Bibles needed for both  
**Believers  
& Seekers**



**25-50k**  
Bible needs estimate



**Printed  
Bible**  
Preferred Format



**Internet  
Bible**  
Format 2nd Priority