

blackout: get prepped

By getting this special guide, you've already committed to give up something you love for those who given everything because of their love of Jesus. So here's what to do next...

NOW...

Fill out the info on the fold-out poster on the other side of this guide as a reminder and statement of your intent.

Challenge three friends using the social media graphic we emailed you (or you can download at opendoorsyouth.org/blackoutpack). Edit and post it on your profiles and tag three friends to join you in getting sponsored to lose what they love - you could even give them one of your Blackout tattoos.

Start getting sponsors and tell people what you are doing. Set up a sponsorship page by heading to justgiving.com/campaign/blackout2020 or use the forms we've sent you to ask people to support your Blackout. You can also download other social media images, posters and flyers at opendoorsyouth.org/blackoutpack to help you promote and explain what you are doing!

TWO WEEKS BEFORE...

Get a slot in your church service, youth group or small group to share about your Blackout. Use the promo materials you can download at opendoorsyouth.org/blackoutpack to help you explain the challenge. Ask people to sponsor you, and join you too!

Continue getting sponsors. Send emails, post on your social profiles and text mates/family.

Look through the *How to raise money* ideas below. Could you plan any other fundraising events over your Blackout?

ONE WEEK BEFORE...

Get a copy of *God's Smuggler* by Brother Andrew to read during your Blackout. It's a popular book, someone in your church might have a copy.

Do a final ask for sponsorship! Put a link on your social profiles to your JustGiving page!

THE DAY BEFORE...

Check out the downloadable resources. Head to opendoorsyouth.org/blackoutpack to find them, some might be helpful for you to use over your Blackout (there's stuff here for youth leaders too).

ONE HOUR BEFORE...

Use one of the temp tattoos we sent you - put it on as a reminder throughout your Blackout to pray for those who have given up everything because of their faith in Jesus.

DURING YOUR BLACKOUT

Check out the little booklet we've sent you for some stories from Christians who have lost everything because of their faith in Jesus and a bunch for activities to do whilst you're doing your Blackout...

how to raise money during blackout

Giving up something you love is a challenge, so get sponsored and tell people what you're doing and why. But if you're not keen on getting sponsored, you could also raise money using these ideas too (depending on what you've chosen to give up!):

- 1 Host an **afternoon tea** and take donations
- 2 Host a **movie night** and charge for tickets and popcorn
- 3 **Walk your neighbours' or friends' dogs** for a small donation
- 4 Get **baking** and sell your tasty treats
- 5 Organise a **gaming night**, either with a PS4 or Xbox or card/board games and charge an entrance fee
- 6 Have a **garage sale** - sell some old books, toys, DVDs or things you don't need or use
- 7 **Wash a bunch of cars** and take donations/charge for each car
- 8 Organise a **quiz night** (online or in person) and sell tickets
- 9 **Do odd jobs** for donations - window cleaning, lawn mowing, hovering...
- 10 Host a **bingo night** and charge for tickets.

Some of these ideas won't be appropriate during the Covid-19 pandemic. Please be sensible and always follow government advice.

what you could help make happen

Blackout is about getting sponsored to give up something you love. That means you'll raise money to help Christians who have lost everything because of their faith in Jesus. So, set yourself a fundraising target and see what you could help to make happen:

Every £7 could enable a woman to attend empowerment training.

Every £20 could provide a widow with a loan to buy seeds for crops and other farming equipment so that she can become self-sufficient.

Every £60 helps provide access to a safe house for a believer fleeing extreme persecution.

£144 could provide a kit of clothes and blankets to help two persecuted families survive the upcoming winter.

£346 could provide immediate trauma care for a woman in Nigeria who has been persecuted.

after your blackout

REFLECT

Use the pages at the back of the *Ideas, Stories and Actions* booklet we sent you to help you reflect on your Blackout experience.

COLLECT SPONSORSHIP

Collect in all your sponsorship money. Don't leave it too long, and make sure you thank the people who supported you. You might even get a chance to explain what you did in your church or at your small group / youth group!

TELL US

We'd love to know what you did, what you learnt and hear your feedback, too. Plus, you'll need to send us the money you raised. If you used justgiving.com to raise money, we will get the funds automatically, but do email us at youth@opendoorsuk.org to let us know how everything went. You can also send in funds using the donation form at opendoorsyouth.org/blackout or you can post us a cheque (payable to Open Doors UK + I).

Please also send us completed sponsor forms and a letter outlining how your Blackout went. Use the address: **FREEPOST, OPEN DOORS UK & IRELAND** and that will get to us (no stamp needed).

Open Doors YOUTH

opendoorsyouth.org
youth@opendoorsuk.org

[opendoorsyouthuk](https://www.facebook.com/opendoorsyouthuk)
[/opendoorsyouth](https://www.instagram.com/opendoorsyouth)

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Thanks for signing up to do Blackout. This little mini guide will give you everything you need to lose what you love for anything from 12 hours to a few weeks!

Remember, Blackout is a sponsored challenge to go without something you love for a day, two days or longer. That could be chocolate, Instagram, Netflix, fast food, football (both home, friends, safety and freedom. Many are threatened, beaten, arrested, tortured and some are even killed for their Christian faith. You love, you'll stand alongside your persecuted church family, raising money and prayer for those who have lost everything because of their choice to follow Jesus.

WHY?

Millions of Christians around the world have lost things they dearly love because of their faith in Jesus. Some have lost family, friends, safety and freedom.

Check out the Blackout launch weekend dates at opendoorsyouth.org/blackout -

it, you can do Blackout whenever you like. We're suggesting giving up something for 48 hours, but depending on what it is, you may want to go longer or shorter (e.g. giving up chocolate: one week; giving up all your screens: 24 hours) - the choice is yours.

HELP! Giving up what you love might seem pretty daunting, but don't freak just yet. We're here to help. Along with this mini-guide we've sent you a little booklet of stories and reflections to help you

Worried about raising money?

connect with the reality facing your persecuted family, and why you've temporarily chosen to lose what you love.

Again, don't panic: on the following pages are some easy steps to help you get started, plus some top alternatives if you don't want to get sponsored. There are a bunch more resources and downloads (including stuff to help groups and youth leaders join the Blackout) at opendoorsyouth.org/blackoutpack

blackout

CHOOSE TO LOSE WHAT YOU LOVE

MINI GUIDE AND 'FILL-IN-YOURSELF' BLACKOUT PLAN POSTER

MY BLACKOUT PLAN

Fill in this poster, following the purple arrows, to help you choose to lose something you love!

HELLO. I'M...

NAME

I AM CHOOSING TO LOSE

WHAT ARE YOU LOSING?

TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO HAVE LOST EVERYTHING FOR THEIR LOVE OF JESUS

I WILL BE DOING THIS ON

ADD DATE(S)

FOR

ADD HOURS

HOURS

I'M AIMING TO RAISE...

£ ADD TARGET

I WILL ASK THESE FRIENDS TO JOIN THE BLACKOUT CHALLENGE WITH ME

THAT MONEY COULD HELP...

provide a widow with a loan to buy seeds for crops and other farming equipment so that she can become self-sufficient.

provide access to a safe house for a believer fleeing extreme persecution.

provide a kit of clothes and blankets to help two persecuted families survive the upcoming winter.

COLOUR ME IN AS YOU RAISE MONEY!

I WILL ASK THESE PEOPLE TO SPONSOR ME...

RAISING MONEY WILL HELP PEOPLE LIKE...

TICK WHEN YOU'VE READ THEIR STORIES IN THE LITTLE GUIDE WE'VE SENT YOU...

POH, WHO LOST HIS FAMILY

AMIRA, WHO LOST HER HOME

ASMAA, WHO LOST HER THINGS

PAUL, WHO LOST HIS FREEDOM

Open Doors
YOUTH