

WHICH BIBLE TO USE?

Study Guide Supplement for:
“Passing On Our Faith to Our Children”
A Presentation of *United Church of God, aia—2004*

Bible Translations: Literal translation of scriptures word-for-word from the ancient texts.

New King James Version An excellent choice for a “working” Bible for several reasons. Overall it is probably the best and most accurate modern English translation available, and eliminates the old English of the original 1611 King James Version (which is also very accurate). The NKJV (New King James Version) is the one that most of us have today in church services, and that our church literature is most often quoted from.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) Another good translation. It draws on different Greek texts than the NKJV but it's very helpful and will shed light on certain passages that may otherwise be hard to understand.

New International Version (NIV) A much looser translation—actually a thought-for-thought rendering somewhere between a translation and a paraphrase. As such it is not nearly as literal and not the best choice for accurate study of a particular subject. However, due to the emphasis on rendering scriptures in understandable language, it can be a good choice for a children's Bible.

Note: Many translations—including the NKJV—are available in a variety of study Bible options...such as wide-margin (good for writing notes in the margins), Nelson Study Bible (with commentary notes at the bottom of most pages), and others.

Bible Paraphrases Paraphrases are least reliable. In these versions the translators simply tell in their own words what *they think* the original author meant—thought by thought or verse by verse. They can be useful in making hard-to-understand language more comprehensible in some verses, but *only* if the translators have clearly and accurately understood the original text. Since paraphrased versions are far more prone to contain major misinterpretations of the Scriptures, we should not use them to establish what the Bible teaches.

International Children's Bible, New Century Version This is a paraphrase for the youngest reader. Each verse is re-worded in short sentences and utilizing a 3rd-grade vocabulary, easy for younger children to comprehend. It is actually fairly accurate overall for a paraphrase, and a good choice for children just starting to read on up to about 3rd grade or so.

Some Sources for Bibles:

Christian Book Distributors:	www.christianbook.com	1-800-247-4784
American Bible Society:	www.bibles.com	1-800-322-4253
Thomas Nelson Bible:	www.thomasonline.com	
Amazon	www.amazon.com	
Books-a-Million	www.bamm.com	