

Adult Bibles

Most of the Bibles in this resource are ones that can be found on the bookshelves of local bookstores. They are primarily Study Bibles, although a couple of popular and useful Bibles, such as *The Message*, *The Story*, and *Today's Parallel Bible*, have been included. Devotional Bibles have not been included.

The following resources on the web may be helpful in choosing a translation:

- The American Bible Society's "A Brief Description of Popular Bible Translations": <http://bibleresources.americanbible.org/bible-resources/bible-resource-center/about-the-bible/about-bible-translation/brief-description-popular-bible-translations>
- Ken Collins' "Translations of the Bible into English": <http://www.kencollins.com/bible-t2.htm>
- First Presbyterian Church, Kannapolis, NC "Choosing a Bible Translation": <http://www.firstpresb.org/translations.htm>
- Sharon Ely Pearson's "Everything You Need to Know about Choosing A Bible (Almost)": <http://www.churchpublishing.org/media/custom/IN-Formation/NewBibleTranslations.pdf>
-

Grade Level Readability of Bible Translations

The determination of grade reading level can vary depending on which tool is used and how much text is analyzed. Some publishers have been known to use one tool for their Bibles and a second one for other publishers'. Joe's Web Tools has a readability tests page (<http://www.joeswebtools.com/text/readability-tests/>) that gives results for six readability tests for text input by the user. Microsoft Word also includes a readability tool. Note that readability of various Bible translations can vary from book to book within the Bible.

The chart on the following page shows some grade level readability results for the most common English translations.

Translation	Readability Scores					
	MacDonald ¹	CB ²	WHM ³	ABC ⁴	ESL ⁵	Pub ⁶
ASV – American Standard Version				12		
AB – Amplified Bible	12			11		
CEB – Common English Bible		7				7-8
CEV – Contemporary English Version	5			4	6.1	
DR – Douay Rheims			12	9-10		
ESV – English Standard Version	8	10		8		
GW – God’s Word Translation	4.5	5		4-5	6.5	
GNT – Good News Translation (GNB, TEV)	6			7	7.1	
HSCB – Holman Christian Standard	8	7-8		7-8		
International Children’s Bible					3.9	
Jerusalem Bible				7		
KJV – King James Version	13	12	12	12	8.5	
LB – Living Bible	8.5		8.3	8	7.1	
The Message	4.5	4-5		7		
NAB – New American Bible	7		6.6	11		
NABRE – New American Bible, Revised Edition						
NASB – New American Standard	11	11	11	11	8.5	
NCV – New Century Version	3.5	3		3	7.3	
NEB – New English Bible				8		
NET – New English Translation	7					
NIV – New International Version	8	7-8	7.8	7	7.3	7.8
NIRV – New International Reader’s Version	3	3			3.6	2.9
NJB – New Jerusalem Bible	7.5		7.4	9		
NKJV – New King James Version	9	7	8	8	8	
NLT – New Living Translation	6.5	6	6.4	6-7	7.2	
NRSV – New Revised Standard Version	10.5	11	8.1	10		
REB – Revised English Bible (NEB)	7			6		
RSV – Revised Standard Version	11	12	10	7		
TNIV – Today’s New International Version	7.5					--

¹ <http://www.notjustanotherbook.com/biblecomparison.htm>, June 9, 2011

² http://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/cms_content?page=652502&sp=1003, June 9, 2011

³ <http://willingheartministries.org/Bible.aspx>, June 9, 2011

⁴ <http://www.allbibles.com/bibleversions.asp>, June 9, 2011

⁵ <http://www.eslbible.com/id15.html>, June 11, 2011

⁶ Publisher’s/Editor’s stated grade level.

Name	Publisher	Trans.	Stated Focus	Other
The Access Bible (Updated Edition)	New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2011	NRSV	When people read the Bible, they are like time travelers visiting societies and cultures very different from our own. The strange customs, unfamiliar words and novel concepts encountered in the Bible can make understanding it a real challenge. <i>The Access Bible</i> offers a wealth of useful, understandable information on life in Biblical times and concepts particular to those times. (From the back cover.)	Maps, charts, tables, glossary, and concordance. Introductory essays about translation, history, culture, the formation of the biblical canon and more. Introduction and notes for each book. Includes the Apocrypha.
The American Patriot's Bible: The Word of God and the Shaping of America	Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2009	NKJV	<i>The American Patriot's Bible</i> connects the teachings of the Bible, the history of the United States, and the life of every American. Beautiful full-color insert pages spotlight the people and events that demonstrate the godly qualities that have made America great. (From the back cover.)	Subject index, concordance, and maps.
The Apologetics Study Bible	Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2007	HCSB	Human beings are the only creatures who ask questions. Major questions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can I know that God exists? • Am I the product of a blind evolutionary process or was I created by God? • How strong is the evidence for Jesus' resurrection? • Is the Bible reliable and true? • Do I have a destiny beyond my life on Earth? • Can evil be reconciled with belief in God who is both all-powerful and all-loving? <i>The Apologetics Study Bible</i> is a unique resource designed to help people answer important and life-shaping questions. It provides this wealth of knowledge in one place, enabling readers to know the reasons and evidences for the Christian hope and to articulate those reasons to others asking the big questions. (From the back cover.)	Maps, charts, timelines, and concordance. Articles on a variety of Christians topics/questions. Introduction and notes for each book. <i>The Apologetics Study Bible for Students</i> is also available.
Archaeological Study Bible: An Illustrated Walk Through Biblical History And Culture	Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005	NIV	With its over 8,000 bottom-of-the-page study notes and nearly 500 full-color photographs, the <i>Archaeological Study Bible</i> not only gives you the complete text of the Bible but takes you into its very world, opening your eyes to the historical, cultural, and archaeological meaning, relevance, and depth of the Scriptures. (From the flyleaf.)	Glossary, concordance, maps, timelines, and tables. Introduction and notes for each book.
Chronological Study Bible	Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2008	KJV	<i>The Chronological Study Bible</i> presents the text of the Bible in the order of events as they unfolded, with notes, articles, and graphics that display the authentic history and culture of Bible times. (From the back cover.)	Books, and parts of books, reordered to fit the editors' understanding of the chronology of biblical history. Maps, charts, tables, timelines, glossary, concordance, and a list of cultural and historical topics. Daily reading plan. Language, canon, archaeology, ethics, and more. Introduction and historical overview for each epoch.
ESV Study Bible	Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2008	ESV	The purpose of the <i>ESV Study Bible</i> is to help people understand the Bible in a deeper way. Created by 95 scholars and teachers who love the Bible—from 9 countries, nearly 20 denominations, and 50 seminaries, colleges, and universities—the <i>ESV Study Bible</i>	Maps, charts, tables, and concordance. Articles on Introduction and notes for each book.

Name	Publisher	Trans.	Stated Focus	Other
The HarperCollins Study Bible (Revised Edition)	New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers, 2006	NRSV	A Study Bible for the Twenty-First Century. The <i>HarperCollins Study Bible</i> has become the standard general reference for understanding the full meaning of this sacred book. This classic study bible has now been completely revised and updated under the aegis of The Society of Biblical Literature—the preeminent academic association of the world’s best biblical scholars. (From the back cover.)	Introductory essays on archeology, religion, historical and cultural contexts, and biblical interpretation. Maps, tables, charts, articles and concordance. Introductions and notes for each book. Includes the Apocrypha..
HCSB Study Bible	Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2010	HCSB	<i>The HCSB Study Bible</i> is the result of a decade of work by more than 75 biblical scholars, plus two years of extensive conversations conducted with a diverse group of study Bible users. The result is a study Bible that puts the emphasis where it must be—on making the Scriptures, God’s written Word, clear and understandable. The study features are easy to navigate, and the text of Scripture is always the central focus. This, combined with the accuracy and accessibility of the HCSB translation, makes this the study Bible for the visual age.	Maps, concordance, tables, and timelines. Notes on Hebrew words in the Hebrew Scriptures and Greek words in the New Testament. One and three year reading plans. Introduction and notes for each book.
Life Application Study Bible	Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.	NLT	<i>The Life Application Study Bible</i> does what a good resource Bible should—it helps you understand the context of a passage, gives important background and historical information, explains difficult words and phrases, and helps you see the interrelationships within Scripture. But it does much more. <i>The Life Application Study Bible</i> goes deeper into God’s Word, helping you discover the timeless truth being communicated, see the relevance for your life, and make a personal application. While some study Bibles attempt application, over 75% of this Bible is application-oriented. The notes answer the questions, “So what? And “What does this passage mean to me, my family, my friends, my job, my neighborhood, my church, my country?”(From “Why The <i>Life Application Study Bible</i> Is Unique.”)	Maps, charts, a combined dictionary and concordance, and personality profiles of many people in the Bible. Includes a Harmony of The Books of Kings and Chronicles and a Harmony of The Gospels. Introduction and notes for each book.
The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language	Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2002		<i>The Message</i> is a reading Bible. It is not intended to replace the excellent study Bibles that are available. My intent here... is simply to get people reading it who don’t know that the Bible is read-able at all, at least by them, and to get people who long ago lost interest in the Bible to read it again. But I haven’t tried to make it easy—there is much in the Bible that is hard to understand. So at some point along the way, soon or late, it will be important to get a standard study Bible to facilitate further study. Meanwhile, read in order to live, praying as you read, “God let it be with ne just as you say.” (From Eugene Peterson’s preface.)	This is a paraphrase by Eugene Peterson. It comes with and without verse numbers
NKJV Study Bible (Second Edition)	Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2007	NKJV	<i>The NKJV Study Bible</i> combines a detailed exposition of the Bible with an accessible and spiritually sensitive style, making it the best available all-purpose Bible study resource between two covers. This study Bible is based on the outstanding New King James Version fo the Bible. Its unique combination of accuracy, grace, and clarity make the NKJV ideal for serious study of the Scriptures. The basic feature of this study Bible is its annotations, which provide a warm yet scholarly commentary on the biblical text. The annotations offer helpful explanations, theological insights, and suggestions for other places to direct your study. (From the flyleaf.)	Maps, charts, timelines, tables, and concordance. Short articles on various topics throughout. A section on Tools for Bible Study. Introduction and notes for each book.

Name	Publisher	Trans.	Stated Focus	Other
The New Oxford Annotated Bible (Fully Revised Fourth Edition)	New York, NY: Oxford University Press, Inc., 2010	NRSV	For decades students, professors, clergy, and general readers have known that <i>The New Oxford Annotated Bible</i> is the best way to study and understand the Bible. This thoroughly revised and fully updated fourth edition contains the best scholarship, up-to-date but not trendy, classic but not backward-looking. (From the back cover.)	Introductions and annotations for each book. General essays on groups of books, history, and translation issues. Maps, diagrams, timelines, weights and measures, calendars, and tables. Glossary of technical terms and concordance. Includes the Apocrypha.
NIV Study Bible (2008 Update)	Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008	NIV	<p>Every day, millions of pastors, students, church leaders, and other Bible readers around the world come to this Bible for inspiration, education, and clarification. While firmly founded on the renowned <i>Zondervan NIV Study Bible</i> of 1985, we've kept it very much alive and relevant with thorough, ongoing research incorporating discoveries in biblical archaeology, linguistics, biblical history, and other disciplines.</p> <p>The heart and soul of this most recent revision are the study notes—over 20,000 entries that are the handiwork of the same translation team that produced this Bible's text, the New International Version. The same exacting, conservative scholarship that brought you today's most read, most trusted Bible translation is invested in the most thorough Bible study notes available today.</p> <p>The <i>Zondervan NIV Study Bible</i> editorial team worked diligently to bring you concise, targeted notes and features that shed light on the meaning and significance of the Scriptures, while at the same time inspiring you to action and real life-change. We think you'll be pleased with the results.</p> <p>One thing that has remained unchanged, however, is the time-tested, trusted text of the NIV. This is the way God speaks to you today. (From the flyleaf.)</p>	Maps, tables, concordance, index to topics, and index to notes. Introduction and notes for each book.
The Original African Heritage Study Bible	Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2007	KJV	<p>The purpose of <i>The Original African Heritage Study Bible</i> is to interpret the Bible as it relates specifically to persons of African descent and thereby to foster an appreciation of the multiculturalism inherent in the Bible.</p> <p><i>The Original African Study Bible</i> offers a number of unique features which reveal the African/Edenic contribution to Judaism and Christianity, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Highlighted verses about Africa and biblical characters of African descent •48 pages of reference to African/Edenic persons, places, and events •Original art reproductions from the Mafa tribe of Cameroon, Africa •Full-color maps showing where important African/Edenic events and places occurred in the Ancient World •101 favorite Bible verses from people of the African Diaspora •Specially selected articles by outstanding national Bible scholars, including "Biblical Hermeneutics in Africentric Perspective" from J. Deotis Roberts' book <i>Africentric Christianity</i> •Words and music to famous slave songs <p>Readers will also appreciate the large print format, critical introductions to each book of the Bible, and the words of Christ printed in red. (From the back cover.)</p>	Maps. Articles on issues and history related to Africa and Africans. Introduction and some notes for each book.

Name	Publisher	Trans.	Stated Focus	Other
Quest Study Bible: The Question and Answer Bible	Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003	NIV	This edition of the Bible addresses the common, the uncommon, and the perplexing questions people ask about the Bible with over 7,000 handy, in-text notes by nearly 350 articles by top evangelical scholars and pastors. Passages that puzzle you will snap into clarity as you explore the Scriptures with the study helps. Turn to the Bible for answers to your questions about life...and turn to the <i>Quest Study Bible</i> with your questions about the Bible. It's an insightful traveling companion on your search for a deeper relationship with God. (From the flyleaf.)	Maps, tables, timelines, dictionary, concordance, and reading plans. Contains a section of Perspectives from the Bible (What to read when...). Introduction and study questions for each book.
Serendipity Bible for Groups (Fourth Edition)	Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002	NIV		
Serendipity Bible: New International Version for Personal and Small Group Study (4th Edition):	Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1996	NIV	Leading a small group just got easier. Hot coffee, donuts, and hearts that are ready for more than just snacks—all makings of a great Bible study group. Get the most of your times together with the NIV <i>Serendipity Bible</i> . You don't have to be a gifted teacher or leader to make to happen. The <i>Serendipity Bible</i> gives you everything you need in one practical, flexible, easy-to-use package. It provides Bible study leaders with ready-made, life-changing discussion questions on any passage of scripture. In-text study questions help groups open discussion, dig deeper into the meaning of a passage, and reflect on life application. The 200 studies and 60 course plans address the needs of 10 different groups, including men, women, singles, youth, and more. With the ready-made studies in the <i>Serendipity Bible</i> , the only thing a group leader has to prepare is the coffee. (From the back cover.)	Maps, tables, visual aids, and dictionary/concordance. Introduction and study questions for each book.
The Story	Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008	TNIV	God has gone to great lengths to rescue lost and hurting people. That is what The Story is all about—the story of the Bible, God's great love affair with humanity. Condensed into 31 accessible chapters, <i>The Story</i> sweeps you into the unfolding progression of Bible characters and events arranged chronologically from Genesis to Revelation—allowing the stories, poems, and teachings of the Bible to read like a novel. Like any good story, <i>The Story</i> is filled with intrigue, drama, conflict, romance, and redemption. Church families around the globe can now embrace <i>The Story</i> for a full ministry year through Sunday school lessons, small groups studies, and family activities. (From the back cover.)	Discussion questions, list of characters, and chart of references. There is also a Teen Edition available.
Today's Parallel Bible	Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000	NIV, NASB, KJV, NLT	<i>Today's Parallel Bible</i> lets you benefit from the rich shades and nuances of meaning offered by different translations. It sets four of today's most popular translations side by side for you to compare and contrast: the trustworthiness and versatility of the new International Version, the time-honored authority of the King James Version, the word-for-word accuracy of the revised New American Standard Bible, and the readability of the New Living Translation. Passages and verses from the four versions are aligned in parallel columns on facing pages for ease of study. Each translation offers insights on different facets of meaning in the text, giving you the benefit of the work of different groups of scholars to help you understand and interpret the Bible for yourself. A valuable resource for gaining insight into scriptural truths, <i>Today's Parallel Bible</i> helps you compare translations at a glance and is an excellent resource for in-depth Bible study. (From the back cover.)	

Name	Publisher	Trans.	Stated Focus	Other
Zondervan KJV Study Bible	Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002	KJV	<p>There's one reason to purchase the <i>Zondervan King James Study Bible</i>: to understand God's Word and God's heart as well as you possibly can. With over 20,000 notes and an abundance of study tools reflecting the forefront of conservative scholarship, this Bible is a veritable resource library designed to help you grasp the Scriptures like never before. Simply put, it's the ultimate King James Version study bible.</p> <p>At the heart of the <i>Zondervan King James Study Bible</i> lie its celebrated study notes. Page after page, they provide extensive, richly informative commentary on the entire Bible text. Written by some of the world's leading conservative Bible scholars, the study notes give you exactly the information you need right when you need it on a broad scope of bible study issues. In other words, the <i>Zondervan King James Study Bible</i> notes provide the ultimate in-text coverage of God's word from Genesis to Revelation.</p> <p>We've done our utmost to give you a Bible that only increases in usefulness as you grow in Christ. (From the flyleaf.)</p>	Maps, timelines, tables, and concordance. Introduction and notes for each book.
Zondervan NASB Study Bible	Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999	NASB		Maps, timelines, tables, and concordance. Introduction and notes for each book.
Zondervan TNIV Study Bible	Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006	TNIV		Maps, timelines, tables, and concordance. Introduction and notes for each book.