

### Choosing your Bible:

Unless you read ancient Hebrew and Greek, you'll need to choose a **translation** of the Bible. Every Bible in print is the product of a group of translators who study the original languages of the Bible and work to make it clear to those who will read it in their own native language.

- + The New Revised Standard Version (late 1980s) is the translation we use in worship at Trinity. It follows the tradition of the Revised Standard Version and the Authorized Version (The "King James" translation) meant for reading and studying in the Anglican and Episcopal traditions. The NRSV translators attempt to come as close to a word-for-word equivalency as possible while making the English natural to contemporary readers.
- + The New International Version is a similarly reputable translation, and may be more common in study bibles aimed for a particular demographic (students, women, executives, etc).
- + The "Good News Bible" (Today's English Version) aims for an easier and more accessible reading level than the NRSV.
- + The Common English Bible is the most recent translation authorized in the Episcopal Church and has a slightly more contemporary and conversational feel.

There are also a couple of paraphrases or narrative arrangements designed to help people read the Bible:

- + The Message, by Eugene Peterson, is not a translation, but a paraphrase, aiming to give the sense of the story, rather than the exact words of the Hebrew or Greek text.
- + The Story, (published by Zondervan) is an abridged arrangement of the elements of the Bible designed for narrative flow. The stories of the Bible are arranged in chronological order (as best we know), and some of the text is left out or summarized with narrative bridges by the arrangers to help the reading flow.

If you want a bible with commentary, some suggestions of how to interpret the Bible, or notes on the text from some kind of scholar or commentator, look for "study bibles". These will have varying amounts of commentary, either alongside the text or at the beginning of a book. You'll find many choices branded for teens, women, men, etc. For a study bible without a particular group focus, Mother Emily likes The New Oxford Annotated Bible, the Harper-Collins Study Bible (both New Revised Standard Version) or The CEB Study Bible (Common English Bible).

## Audio Bibles

- + Pure Voice Audio Bible - New International Version, NIV (Narrated by George W. Sarris)
- + Inspired by the Bible Experience: The Complete Bible, with a cast of excellent celebrity voices

Free E-Bible apps with reading plans (you can often download a reading plan from these websites, also, if you prefer to read in a paper Bible):

- + ReadScripture - [www.readscripture.org](http://www.readscripture.org) or in your App Store. Divides the Bible into 2-4 chapter chunks for daily reading for a year-long reading plan. Uses the English Standard Version (ESV) translation, and includes explanatory videos from The Bible Project.
- + Bible Gateway - app includes a substantial variety of scripture translations (including the NRSV), an audio bible option, and a variety of reading plans.
- + YouVersion Bible App - [www.youversion.com](http://www.youversion.com) or in your App Store (where it may appear simply as “Bible”). Variety of translations, audio options, and reading plans, with some social sharing options.

## Resources for Studying and Learning More About The Bible

The Bible Project - [thebibleproject.com/](http://thebibleproject.com/) - terrific series of videos covering many of the themes and much of the basic content of the Bible. Generally excellent theological and scholarly grounding, made accessible with narrative and video. Some tendency to read Christian themes into the Hebrew scriptures.

Don't Know Much About The Bible, Kenneth C. Davis. A readable, enjoyable resource for beginners and intermediate Bible readers that will help you navigate the Bible and understand what's going on in the story and behind the story.

For Everyone Commentary Series (N.T. Wright for the Christian scriptures, John Goldingay for the Hebrew scriptures; a separate commentary book for almost all of the books of the Bible) - for reading and studying on your own or in a group; a deeper dive into the history, context, and interpretation of the Bible, still accessible to most readers.

Enter The Bible - [www.enterthebible.org](http://www.enterthebible.org) - website with commentary and background information for each book of the Bible, along with resources for maps and historical context.

Two Feminists Annotate the Bible - [twofeministsblog.com/](http://twofeministsblog.com/) - podcast. An Episcopal priest and a religion teacher explore the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

The Bible For Normal People - [www.peteenns.com/podcast/](http://www.peteenns.com/podcast/) - podcast. Dips in and out of scriptural topics; not in biblical order. Peter Enns also has a book called “How The Bible Actually Works” - apparently a resource on reading the Bible “for wisdom instead of answers”)