

The Bible is God's word, his full counsel for mankind, in the form of a collection of 66 books originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. To help read and study the Bible in English, we recommend the below resources.

Bible Translations

- **ESV** (English Standard Version) - A mostly word-for-word translation that is as literal as possible while still being clear English. It stands in the Tyndale–King James legacy and inherits its words and phrases from that mainstream translation tradition. This is the translation we use at Bethany and recommend to all our members for reading, teaching, study, and memorization.
- **NLT** (New Living Translation) - A thought-for-thought translation that dynamically conveys the idea and feel of the original text. This is a good second translation to have, useful to consult when you need help understanding the ideas that a difficult passage conveys.
- **CSB** (Christian Standard Bible) - A modern translation balancing literal accuracy with readability. The text flows better than the ESV, especially in the Old Testament. Particularly recommended for kids and teens.

Study and Daily Bibles

- **ESV Chronological Bible** by Crossway - Composed in 365 daily readings, this chronological Bible will give you an intuitive feel for what happens when and help you read through the entire Bible in a year! Comes with a helpful timeline foldout.
- **ESV Study Bible** by Crossway - An excellent resource, full of informative notes, helpful tables and approachable information presentation. Study Bibles also have cross references, linking you to related passages for further study.
- **The MacArthur Study Bible** - More detailed and opinionated than the ESV Study Bible. If you buy one, consider getting the LSB (successor to the NASB from The Master's Seminary) and add another translation to your library at the same time.

Mobile Apps

- **Literal Word Bible App** by Literal Word - Simple app for reading, has original language definitions.
- **ESV Bible** by Crossway - Full featured bible app, includes audio.
- **YouVersion Bible** by Life.Church - Even more features, includes audio, devotions and more. This app is called different names depending on the store:
 - Android Play Store: **YouVersion Bible App + Audio** by Life.Church
 - Apple App Store: **Bible** by Life.Church

Websites

- <https://esv.literalword.com/> - **Literal Word** is the best website for simple reading and fast word searches.
- <https://www.bible.com/> - The full-featured website of the **YouVersion Bible** mobile app.

Advanced Study

- <https://biblehub.com/> - **Bible Hub** features multiple translations, interlinear texts, cross-references, commentaries, and concordances with a user-friendly interface for verse-by-verse study. This is also the home of the BLB (Berean Literal Bible) and BIB (Berean Interlinear Bible), two new texts for advanced study of the original languages.
- <https://www.blueletterbible.org/> - **Blue Letter Bible** is a comprehensive online Bible study tool with multiple translations, Hebrew/Greek lexicons, commentaries, and cross-references. Great for original language analysis.
- <https://www.stepbible.org/> - **STEP Bible** (Scripture Tools for Every Person) is a free academic resource developed by Tyndale House Cambridge focused on original language study.