

Selecting a Bible For Your Child

Below are a few versions of the Bible that are easier for children to read. All these versions follow the original Hebrew and Greek fairly closely (strict translation), but the New Living Translation is considered a “free” interpretation (thought for thought, but not word for word translation).

NIRV (New International Reader’s Version) ages 6-10
NCV (New Century Version) ages 6-12
NIV (New International Version) 8 and above
NKJV (New King James Version) 8 and above
NLT (New Living Translation) 8 and above

Factors to consider when selecting a study Bible for children.

- ★ You need to know your child and what is an important feature to him or her. No one study Bible will excel in every feature.
- ★ Study Bibles can utilize any of the versions listed above. They may also contain sidebar background information, articles, maps, dictionary of Bible words, and a concordance.
- ★ New study Bibles for children come out every year based on different themes (Explorer’s Study Bible, Kid’s Quest Study Bible, New Adventure Bible, KidsBible.com, Planet Word Bible). Pick a theme that interests your child. Consider a new Bible each year to help motivate your child.
- ★ Some are more interactive than others. They ask questions and provide room for responses.
- ★ Some are linked to Internet web sites and others come with CD’s or DVD’s.
- ★ Some contain spaces to journal and daily devotion guides.
- ★ Some contain more illustrations and eye-catching cartoons.
- ★ Some contain more aids to help the child use the Bible more easily.

Presenting the Bible to Your Child

- ★ Put name and phone # in it. Dozens of Bibles are left at church or retreats and we don’t know who owns them.
- ★ Write an affirming word in the cover.
- ★ Pick a life verse for your child, maybe one based on your child’s name. Look it up and highlight it together.
- ★ Explain how to use it. Each verse has an address, but unlike our address, it never changes.
- ★ Explain some of the basics of how to use it – books, chapters, verses, Old and New Testaments, types of books such as history, prophecy, poetry, gospels, and epistles. Go over the tools and aids included in the Bible.