



Reading the Bible in a Year.

Getting started – you will need a Bible! This may seem obvious, but you should put some thought into choosing the Bible you will use.

The words: The holy scriptures were originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Since most of us do not read those languages we will need to acquire the scriptures in English. I would recommend choosing a translation over a paraphrase.

Translations go back to the original languages and translate the meaning into English.

Paraphrases, for the most part, use an English translation, and restate the meaning in more common English usage. This creates an extra layer of interpretation between the original authors and today's reader.

There are MANY translations from which to choose. Here are several things to consider as you seek to narrow down the choices:

You do enjoy taking courses in school? If so, the Oxford Annotated New Revised Standard Version would be an excellent choice.

Do you want a Bible that is easy to read? If so, the “Good News” translation is a good choice.

Perhaps the reading part is not as important in your choice as other considerations:

Do you plan to do the daily readings on your commute to work? Getting a “purse size” Bible makes sense for this.

Is the font size in many Bibles challenging to read for more than a couple of minutes at a time? Look for Bibles with “giant print”. These are actually not that much larger a book than “regular” Bibles.

Many translations are available on CD to be downloaded into computers and PDA's.

Also, you can get the Bible on audio. One item of which you will want to be mindful: Try to find an audio recording with “indexing”. We will be reading some books a few chapters at a time, spread over some months. Many audio Bibles will let the listener skip around to different books. It will be more helpful for you if you are able to “skip” to individual chapters within books, as well.

Making the most of this study:

The main point to is actually read the entire Bible. Whatever support you can give yourself to this goal is good!

If you like to write in your study books, perhaps you will want to have special writing utensils that you will use throughout this year so that in future years you can look back to see what was important to you in 2007-08.

If you do NOT like to carry books around, you may want to have a Bible at each location where you might have time to read: in your favorite reading spot at home, in your desk at work, in the glove box...

If you carry your laptop with you, you may want to get the Bible on CD and download the readings each week. Be sure to let the church office know that you want the downloads.

If you are going to read with a friends, pick a regular time and place for this to happen. Make that a priority in your life for the next year. Otherwise, one excuse will lead to another...

To help your understanding, it is always good to participate in a class. You can meet with others each Sunday morning 9-9:45 a.m. in our library.