

OPEN THE BOOK

Why are there different Bibles?

There are different types of Bibles. Some include notes for study, some are meant for prayer or devotion, and some are made for children, teenagers, or moms and dads. There are also different translations. Since the Bible was first written in Hebrew and Greek, it had to be translated into English. People have translated the Bible in different ways, in order to make it easier for us to understand God's Word.

Here are some popular types of translations: Which Bible does your family have?

King James Version (KJV) – This version was first translated almost 400 years ago. It was the first English Bible that was printed on a press. It has lots of funny older words, like “thee” and “thou.”

New King James Version (NKJV) – A new version of the King James Bible, without some of the funny words.

Revised Standard Version (RSV) – A version translated by the National Council of Churches. The United Methodist Church is a member of this Council. The RSV was the first version to remove some of the funny words.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) – A new version of the Revised Standard Version, probably the most used translation in The United Methodist Church.

New International Version (NIV) – A version that was first made as an alternative to the RSV. The NIV is popular in many United Methodist churches.

New Living Translation (NLT) – An easier to read version of the Bible. This is the version that NexGen Student Ministries prefers.

New American Bible (NAB) – One of the two official English language Catholic versions of the Bible used in 80% of Catholic churches in the United States.