

# WCC Midweek Teaching

## *The Inductive Study Method*

An investigative approach to the Bible using three basic components: observation, interpretation, and application.

**Observation** – What does the text say? This is how to learn exactly what a passage of scripture says.

Who? When? Where? Why? What does it say? What do I notice?

**Interpretation** – What does the text mean? This is how to accurately interpret scripture and understand what it means in the right context.

What are the key themes or truths? What is the writer's intended meaning? What is the context? What questions do I have?

**Application** – How does the meaning of this text apply to me? What are the implications? This is how to correctly apply the truth of the text to everyday life.

How do I apply it? What does this mean for me?

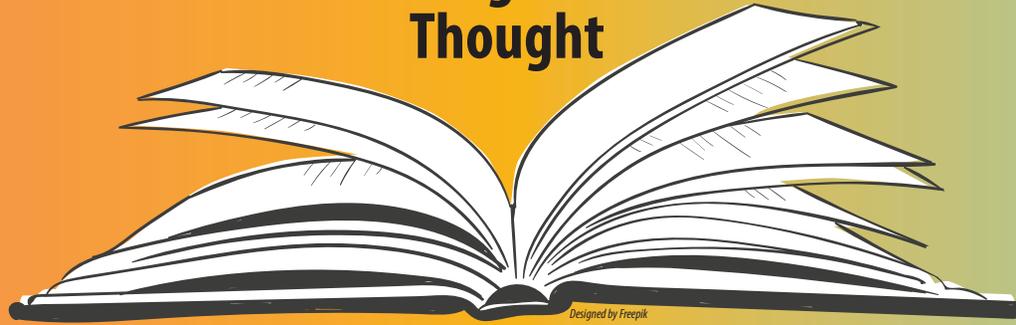


# BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

**Word for  
Word**

**Thought for  
Thought**

**Paraphrase**



NASB    ESV    RSV    KJV    RV    NKJV    HCSB    NET    CSB    NRSV    NIV    NCV    NLT    NIRV    GNT    CEV    TLB    TPT    MSG

**CEV-** Contemporary English Version

**CSB-** Christian Standard Bible

**ESV-** English Standard Version

**GNT-** Good News Translation

**KJV-** King James Version

**MSG-** The Message

**NASB-** New American Standard Bible

**NCV-** New Century Version

**NET-** New English Translation

**NIRV-** New International Reader's Version

**NIV-** New International Version

**NKJV-** New King James Version

**NLT-** New Living Translation

**NRSV-** New Revised Standard Version

**RSV-** Revised Standard Version

**RV-** Reina-Valera (Spanish)

**TLB-** Living Bible

**TPT-** The Passion Translation

| Translation  |                              | Date               | Reading Grade Level | Translation Philosophy   | Distinctives   |
|--------------|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| Abbreviation | Full Name                    |                    |                     |  |  |
| CEV          | Contemporary English Version | 1995 (2006 update) | 5                   | Functional equivalent — still a translation but is often very colloquial and renders the original language loosely                                       | Easy to understand and read out loud. Designed for people who struggle to read other translations, including children, youth, and new Bible readers who are not familiar with traditional Bible and church words.  |
| CSB          | Christian Standard Bible     | 2017               | 7                   | Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought — blending transparency to the original documents with accessibility for the contemporary audience | This is an update of the Holman Christian Standard Bible (2004), an original translation from Greek and Hebrew manuscripts.  |
| ESV          | English Standard Version     | 2001 (2016 update) | 8                   | Formal equivalence — essentially literal, word-for-word, staying close to the original sentence structure but changing it where meaning is compromised   | This is a update of the Revised Standard Version (1952) that draws on recent scholarship and follows a formal equivalence approach.  |
| GNT          | Good News Translation        | 1976 (1992 update) | 7                   | Dynamic equivalence — still a translation but is often very colloquial and renders the original language loosely   | One of the first meaning-based translations of the Bible into English. It presents the message of the Bible in a level of English that is common to most of the English-speaking world. Also known as Today's English Version or the Good News Bible.  |
| KJV          | King James Version           | 1611               | 12                  | Formal equivalence — literal, staying close to the original sentence structure but changing it where meaning is compromised                              | A word-for-word translation originally published in 1611 at the request of King James I of England. It has been frequently reprinted and its spelling updated. Most copies today are slightly adapted from a 1769 edition. Many of the best and most ancient Hebrew and Greek manuscripts of Bible books have been discovered since 1850, so it could not make use of them. It is still the most widely owned and used English translation in the United States. |

| Translation  |                                   | Date               | Reading Grade Level | Translation Philosophy   | Distinctives   |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| Abbreviation | Full Name                         |                    |                     |  |  |
| MSG          | The Message                       | 2002               | 8                   | Functional equivalence — a paraphrase that is still a translation but is often very colloquial and renders the original language loosely   | A popular paraphrase of the Bible by Eugene Peterson, who used the original Greek and Hebrew texts and tried to bring their feel—their tone, rhythm, and idiom—directly into contemporary English. It is presented as a Bible more for personal reading than for study or public reading. It is often useful to read side by side with other, more word-for-word translations. Its wording can help new readers unlock the sense of the text and seasoned Bible readers find fresh energy in passages that have become too familiar. |
| NASB         | New American Standard Bible       | 1971 (1995 update) | 11                  | Formal equivalence — an uncompromising effort to maximize transparent to the original documents  | Probably the most word-for-word type translation available today. Because of this, it is a good version to use in Bible study where one is concerned with the form of the original Hebrew and Greek.   |
| NCV          | New Century Version               | 1987 (1991 update) | 5                   | Dynamic equivalence — prioritizing accessibility for a broad audience  | An English translation of the Bible with roots extending to the English Version for the Deaf (EVD) Bible translation. It is also related to the Easy-to-Read Version (ERV), having longer sentences and a more fluent style.   |
| NET          | New English Translation           | 2005 (2017 update) | 8                   | Translation notes to give a translation that is formal equivalence, while placing a somewhat more dynamic equivalence translation in the text itself to promote better readability and understandability | Most notable for an immense number of lengthy footnotes (which often explain its textual translation decision), its open translation process, its availability on the Internet (both during its beta process and in its final form), and its open copyright permitting free downloads.   |
| NIRV         | New International Readers Version | 1996               | 3                   | Dynamic equivalence, balance between word-for-word translation and thought-or-thought, with an emphasis on meaning when necessary for simplification   | A thorough, scholarly simplification of the NIV. It was specifically designed to help young children and new readers understand the Bible for themselves and create an easy stepping-stone from a children's Bible to an adult Bible.  |

| Translation  |                              | Date                  | Reading Grade Level | Translation Philosophy  | Distinctives  |
|--------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---|---|
| Abbreviation | Full Name                    |                       |                     |   |   |
| NIV          | New International Version    | 1978<br>(2011 update) | 8                   | Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought — attempts to adopt a midpoint between staying close to the original text and communicating its meaning in a way that is easy to understand | Created directly from the best-attested manuscripts, it is the world's best-selling modern English Bible translation. It seeks to provide the optimum combination of transparency to the form and structure of the original documents and comprehensibility of the original meaning in every verse. Also available in Spanish.  |
| NKJV         | New King James Version       | 1982                  | 9                   | Formal equivalence — literal, staying close to the original sentence structure but changing it where meaning is compromised   | A modern update of the King James Version. The purpose was to refresh and modernize the original KJV without losing its distinctive flavor.   |
| NLT          | New Living Translation       | 1996                  | 6                   | Dynamic equivalence — still a translation but is often very colloquial and renders the original language loosely  | A meaning-based translation in the tradition of the Living Bible (LB). It involved comparing the LB to the original-language texts, and then making changes so that it is now a true translation. It is a good translation to use with youth and adults who have difficulty with the traditional language of a formal equivalent translation. Also available in Spanish.                    |
| NRSV         | New Revised Standard Version | 1989                  | 9                   | Formal equivalence — literal, staying close to the original sentence structure but changing it where meaning is compromised   | A revision of the Revised Standard Version. It is now the latest translation in the King James tradition. It is a blend of meaning-based and form-based translation types. It stands out among the many translations because it is “as literal as possible” in adhering to the ancient texts and only “as free as necessary” to make the meaning clear in graceful, understandable English. |
| RSV          | Revised Standard Version     | 1952<br>(1971 update) | 12                  | Formal equivalence — literal, staying close to the original sentence structure but changing it where meaning is compromised   | An update of the American Standard Version (1901), which was a revision of the King James Version.  |

| Translation  |                         | Date               | Reading Grade Level | Translation Philosophy  | Distinctives  |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---|---|
| Abbreviation | Full Name               |                    |                     |   |   |
| RV           | Reina-Valera (Spanish)  | 1569 (2011 update) | 12                  | Formal equivalence — more literal translation   | As central to the perception of the Bible in Spanish as the KJV is in English. Multiple revisions, but the most commonly used Bible for Spanish-speaking Christians around the world is the 1960 revision. Also similar to the KJV in its translation source of the Latin Vulgate in addition to the Greek, Aramaic, and Hebrew texts. Uses Castilian Spanish rather than Latin American Spanish. |
| TLB          | The Living Bible        | 1971               | 7                   | Paraphrase, functional equivalence — not translated directly from the original languages                        | Its purpose is to say as exactly as possible what the writers of the Scriptures meant, and to say it simply, expanding where necessary for a clear understanding by the modern reader.  |
| TPT          | The Passion Translation | 2017               | 6                   | Functional equivalence — an expanded version that includes additional words and phrases to express more emotion | Only includes the New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs. From the publisher: “The purpose of the Passion Translation is to reintroduce the passion and fire of the Bible to the English reader. It doesn’t merely convey the literal meaning of words. It expresses God’s passion for people and his world by translating the original, life-changing message of God’s Word for modern readers.”    |

*Information gathered from Bible Gateway, the British and Foreign Bible Society, and Zondervan Publishing*

| Translation  |                              | Sample Verses  |   |  |   |
|--------------|------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| Abbreviation | Full Name                    | <i>Genesis 1:26</i>  | <i>Psalms 27:1</i>  | <i>John 13:34-35</i>   | <i>Romans 12:1-2</i>  |
| CEV          | Contemporary English Version | God said, "Now we will make humans, and they will be like us. We will let them rule the fish, the birds, and all other living creatures."  | You, Lord, are the light that keeps me safe. I am not afraid of anyone. You protect me, and I have no fears.                | But I am giving you a new command. You must love each other, just as I have loved you. If you love each other, everyone will know that you are my disciples.   | Dear friends, God is good. So I beg you to offer your bodies to him as a living sacrifice, pure and pleasing. That's the most sensible way to serve God. Don't be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think. Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to him.  |
| CSB          | Christian Standard Bible     | Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth."   | The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom should I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—whom should I dread?        | "I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."                           | Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.  |
| ESV          | English Standard Version     | Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." | The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? | A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." | I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.   |
| GNT          | Good News Translation        | Then God said, "And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us. They will have power over the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small."  | The Lord is my light and my salvation; I will fear no one. The Lord protects me from all danger; I will never be afraid.    | And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples."                   | So then, my friends, because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer. Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect. |

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| KJV          | King James Version          | And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. | The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?         | A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.               | I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.   |
| MSG          | The Message                 | God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature so they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth."         | Light, space, zest—that's God! So, with him on my side I'm fearless, afraid of no one and nothing.                                | "Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other." | So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. |
| NASB         | New American Standard Bible | Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."      | The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread?                 | A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."       | Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.   |
| NCV          | New Century Version         | Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image and likeness. And let them rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the tame animals, over all the earth, and over all the small crawling animals on the earth."                  | The Lord is my light and the one who saves me. So why should I fear anyone? The Lord protects my life. So why should I be afraid? | "I give you a new command: Love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you. All people will know that you are my followers if you love each other."   | So brothers and sisters, since God has shown us great mercy, I beg you to offer your lives as a living sacrifice to him. Your offering must be only for God and pleasing to him, which is the spiritual way for you to worship. Do not be shaped by this world; instead be changed within by a new way of thinking. Then you will be able to decide what God wants for you; you will know what is good and pleasing to him and what is perfect.   |

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| NET          | New English Translation           | Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, after our likeness, so they may rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move on the earth."                              | The Lord delivers and vindicates me! I fear no one! The Lord protects my life! I am afraid of no one!                     | "I give you a new commandment—to love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. Everyone will know by this that you are my disciples—if you have love for one another." | Therefore I exhort you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—alive, holy, and pleasing to God—which is your reasonable service. Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may test and approve what is the will of God—what is good and well-pleasing and perfect.  |
| NIRV         | New International Readers Version | Then God said, "Let us make human beings so that they are like us. Let them rule over the fish in the seas and the birds in the sky. Let them rule over the livestock and all the wild animals. And let them rule over all the creatures that move along the ground." | The Lord is my light, and he saves me. Why should I fear anyone? The Lord is my place of safety. Why should I be afraid?  | "I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples."                                   | Brothers and sisters, God has shown you his mercy. So I am asking you to offer up your bodies to him while you are still alive. Your bodies are a holy sacrifice that is pleasing to God. When you offer your bodies to God, you are worshiping him in the right way. Don't live the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect. |
| NIV          | New International Version         | Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."                      | The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? | "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."                        | Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.   |
| NKJV         | New King James Version            | Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."                 | The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? | A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."   | I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.  |

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| NLT          | New Living Translation       | Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground."   | The Lord is my light and my salvation—so why should I be afraid? The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble? | So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."                | And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. |
| NRSV         | New Revised Standard Version | Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." | The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?                   | I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." | I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.   |
| RSV          | Revised Standard Version     | Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."                                  | The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?                   | A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." | I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.  |
| RV           | Reina-Valera (Spanish)       | Entonces dijo Dios: Hagamos al hombre a nuestra imagen, conforme a nuestra semejanza; y señoree en los peces del mar, en las aves de los cielos, en las bestias, en toda la tierra, y en todo animal que se arrastra sobre la tierra.  | Jehová es mi luz y mi salvación; ¿de quién temeré? Jehová es la fortaleza de mi vida; ¿de quién he de atemorizarme?                           | Un mandamiento nuevo os doy: Que os améis unos a otros; como yo os he amado, que también os améis unos a otros. En esto conocerán todos que sois mis discípulos, si tuviereis amor los unos con los otros.    | Así que, hermanos, os ruego por las misericordias de Dios, que presentéis vuestros cuerpos en sacrificio vivo, santo, agradable a Dios, que es vuestro culto racional. No os conforméis a este siglo, sino transformaos por medio de la renovación de vuestro entendimiento, para que comprobéis cuál sea la buena voluntad de Dios, agradable y perfecta.   |

| Translation  |                         | Sample Verses   |   |   |   |
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| TLB          | Living Bible            | Then God said, "Let us make a man—someone like ourselves,* to be the master of all life upon the earth and in the skies and in the seas." | The Lord is my light and my salvation; he protects me from danger—whom shall I fear?  | "And so I am giving a new commandment to you now—love each other just as much as I love you. Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples."  | And so, dear brothers, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living sacrifice, holy—the kind he can accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask? Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but be a new and different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think. Then you will learn from your own experience how his ways will really satisfy you.   |
| TPT          | The Passion Translation | N/A   | The Lord is my revelation-light to guide me along the way; he's the source of my salvation to defend me every day. I fear no one! I'll never turn back and run from you, Lord; surround and protect me. | "So I give you now a new commandment: Love each other just as much as I have loved you. For when you demonstrate the same love I have for you by loving one another, everyone will know that you're my true followers." | Beloved friends, what should be our proper response to God's marvelous mercies? I encourage you to surrender yourselves to God to be his sacred, living sacrifices. And live in holiness, experiencing all that delights his heart. For this becomes your genuine expression of worship. Stop imitating the ideals and opinions of the culture around you, but be inwardly transformed by the Holy Spirit through a total reformation of how you think. This will empower you to discern God's will as you live a beautiful life, satisfying and perfect in his eyes. |