

## **Suggested Bibles for home study.... Compiled by Rev. Dr. Susan Stonestreet**

### **“Short list”.....**

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

New International Version (NIV)

New King James Version (NKJV)

New Jerusalem Bible (NJB)

Contemporary English Version (CEV)

The Message (not a translation, but an interpretation in modern language)

If you are looking for a Bible with just the text and no study notes, all of the above are available in that form in paperback or hardback.

If you are looking for a Bible with both text *and* study notes, I will detail them below. Because the Bible is somewhat hard to understand for us modern readers, a Bible with study notes can be very helpful! *They will cost more, but they will help you to learn more from the text throughout the Bible.*

Bibles are available from Amazon at reduced prices, but you might want to go to a bookstore and check each one out and spend a little more and support the local economy! Which ones just “feel right” to you? Which ones invite you to read them? Is the print big enough and dark enough to read easily?

### **Now, the “details” of each of the Bibles above....**

**NRSV Study Bible** – This is “the standard,” in my opinion, for accuracy, understanding and a more progressive appreciation of the texts and how they can be important to us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I recommend *The New Interpreter’s Study Bible, New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha*, published by Abingdon Press. There are NRSV Study Bibles published by a variety of publishers. Harpers comes to mind, Zondervan is another, and Oxford still one more. Another Study Bible is *The Life With God Bible*, published by Harper. The print is small, but it has a lovely leather like cover and lots of more meditative thoughts around the texts. There is another very new NRSV Study Bible called the *Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible*. This one is more expensive, but provides a much greater understanding of the cultural background of biblical times. It is published by Zondervan.

**NIV Study Bible** – This is another good Study Bible, with slightly different language than the NRSV. I recommend *The NIV Study Bible*, published by Zondervan.

**NJKV Study Bible** – This Bible uses the translation of the King James Bible, but leaves out the old English verbiage which is hard to read and understand for us modern folks! You can't deny the language of the King James is beautiful, but sometimes the words used are very foreign to our modern ears. The *NKJV Study Bible* I recommend is published by Nelson.

**New Jerusalem Bible** – This is sometimes called the “Catholic Bible”! The language is stunning and beautiful. The one I have and like is *The New Jerusalem Bible, Saints Devotional Edition*, published by Doubleday. This is not specifically a Study Bible, but one with exquisite reflections throughout.

**Contemporary English Version** – This is a much more contemporary translation of the Bible. This could be a good choice for someone with no knowledge of the Bible. The one I have and like is *Seek Find, the Bible for All People, Contemporary English Version*, published by G. P. Putnam's Sons. Again pretty small light print, but a good read.

***The Message, The Bible in Contemporary Language*** – This is another modern *interpretation* of the Bible more than a *translation* of the texts. This Bible was done by Eugene Peterson. This one is published by Navpress and comes in many sizes. It's good to use to compare to passages that seem hard to understand in more traditional biblical translations.

There are MANY more Study Bibles out there. Go to a big bookstore and you'll discover just how many! Some offer a very traditional, conservative, single interpretative stance theologically. Others offer a more open progressive understanding of the texts.

I hope this list helps you to find the Bible or Bibles that bring you the most understanding and the greatest spiritual guidance.... I'm happy to discuss any of them with you on an individual basis and show you the Bibles I have.