

I often get asked by a parent to recommend a Bible for their child. So I've done some research, and piled in some research done by another children's pastor (Henry Zonio) and come up with this daunting list.

The main thing that I think will make the difference for the child is whether the Bible is understandable. And the biggest factor on that score is which translation of the Bible is used. The "translation" refers to the actual text of the Bible. Because the Bible was originally written in several languages—none of them English—Biblical Scholars take the original languages, and translate them into the language of the modern readers. This is exactly what King James commissioned almost 400 years ago—a Bible in the language of the English people, that they could understand. That's why it sounds like Shakespeare—because it was created for the people of his era. For centuries this was THE English Bible. But in the last 15 years, there have been several translations of the Bible been done with children and/or early readers in mind.

The **New Century Version (NCV)**, also known as the **International Children's Bible (ICB)** was the first full translation done for kids. It is written at about an 8 year old reading level, but better ones have been done since.

The **God's Word** Translation (GW) is one of my favorites. I like it because they neutralized any of the unnecessarily gender specific language. That is, God is still male(!), but trade in "all men" for "all people" etc, whenever appropriate.

The **New International reader's Version (NirV)** is a variation of the popular NIV, except that it has been re-worked for young readers, English as a Second Language readers, adults learning to read, etc. There is a LOT of thematic bibles using this translation.

My favorite is the **New Living Translation (NLT)**. This is based on the Living Bible, which was not a translation, but a paraphrase. But so many people loved it so much, the scholars went back and did an accurate translation that maintained the style and flavor of the popular LB.

But beyond the translation, there are tons of special features that can make Bible study more interesting, and provide a wider variety of ways to access the truths of the Bible. Here is a list of our Top 10 favorites, and a few more.

Rank	Bible	Publisher	Trans-lation	Features	Lower Price	Upper Price
1!	The Hands-On Bible	Group Pub / Tyndale	NLT	Tons of cool features, including Parent/Child learning activities. We use this at the Murphy house for family devotions	\$13.59	\$16.49
2	KidsBible.com	Tommy Nelson	NCV	historical background, how-to-study-the-Bible features, Application, and Journaling	\$19.99	\$26.99
3	Super Heroes Bible	Zonderkidz	NirV	Great Illustrations, Book Introductions, Character profiles on 200 heroes & non-heroes, Reading plans, bible dictionary, maps	\$21.99	\$26.99
4	The Edge Devotional Bible	Zonderkidz	NIV	Relevant, Practical and targeting 8-12 year olds. Daily Devotion Plan, Hot Topics, Dictionary	\$16.49	\$19.70
5-6	Young Women of Faith Bible	Zonderkidz	NIV	Book Intros, Dictionary, features linked to "Women of Faith Study Bible", Weekly Bible Studies, Historical Notes, Journaling	\$17.15	\$26.99
5-6	252 Boy's Bible (amazon calls it "the Boys Bible" by Rick	Zonderkidz	NIV	Book Intros, interesting and funny facts, Q&A, "Gross" feature, Devotional Guide	\$17.15	\$26.99

	Osborne)					
7	Adventure Bible	Zonderkidz	NIV	Book Intros and historical notes, Application Activities	\$14.95	\$19.79
8	Kids Life Application Bible	Tyndale House	NLT	So many special features it's almost distracting, but no dictionary or concordance. Also available as "Girls Life App Bible " & "Boys Life App Bible"	\$21.99	\$32.99
9	Kids Quest Study Bible	Zonderkidz	NIRV	targetting 6-8 yr olds 500 answers to life's tough questions, dictionary, topical index	\$21.99	\$26.99
10	The Bibleman Bible	Tommy Nelson	NCV	Dictionary, maps, Bibleman Comics	\$19.99	\$24.99
	Discoverer's Bible	Zonderkidz	NIV	Some Illustrations, maps, concordance, dictionary, Bible timeline	\$14.27	\$32.99
	Treasure Study Bible	Kirkbride	NIV	Based on the Thompson Study System, made famous by the Thompson Chain-Reference Bible, 500 Topical Studies / Hunts, Daily Reading Guide	\$28.99	
	God's Word for Boys / God's Word for Girls	World Publishing	GW	Book Intros, mini-devotionals, biographical sketches on heroines & heroes of the Bible, Historical notes & application challenges	\$15.63	\$17.93
	Kids Devotional Bible	Zonderkidz	NIRV	Year's worth of devotions, weekend activities, dictionary	\$17.15	\$21.27
	Kids Study Bible Revised	Zonderkidz	NIRV	Book Intros for young readers, Illustrations of Bible objects, other standard features, full color artwork, for 6-10	\$21.99	\$27.99
	Faithgirlz Bible	Zonderkidz	NIV	Lots of standard features, for 8-12 yrs	\$14.95	\$23.09
	Soul Surfer Bible	Zonderkidz	NIV	12 pages of color add ins, featuring the message from Bethany Hamilton, famous Christian Surfer.	\$21.99	\$34.99
	The Adventure Bible for Young Readers	Zonderkidz	NIRV	Maps, for 6-10	\$14.95	\$17.81