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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Which Bible?

TEACHING SUMMARY

Many believers ask which Bible translation is best. While there are many options available, no translation is perfect. Translations differ based on the manuscripts used, translation philosophy, and the degree of interpretation by translators.

Generally, translations that rely on older manuscripts are considered more reliable. Versions like the NASB and ESV aim for a more "word-for-word" translation, while others like the NIV focus more on "thought-for-thought," which can improve readability but may introduce more interpretive bias.

A balanced approach is to use a reliable primary translation (such as the ESV), while also consulting other translations and interlinear tools when questions arise. Differences between translations can highlight potential bias or misunderstandings, prompting deeper study of the original Hebrew and Greek.

Ultimately, the goal is not to rely on one translation alone, but to "test everything" by comparing resources, examining original language tools, and seeking truth in alignment with the Word of God.

SUMMARY POINTS

- There is no perfect Bible translation.
- Older manuscripts are generally considered more reliable.
- "Word-for-word" translations aim for accuracy but may be harder to read.
- "Thought-for-thought" translations are easier to read but may introduce bias.
- The ESV and NASB are commonly used for study.
- The NIV is more readable but should be used with caution.
- Some translations should be avoided due to excessive interpretation.

• Interlinear tools help examine original Hebrew and Greek meanings.
• Comparing multiple translations helps identify bias and clarify meaning.
• Believers should test everything and seek truth through careful study.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. There is no perfect Bible _____.
2. Older _____ are generally considered more reliable.
3. “Word-for-word” translations focus on _____.
4. “Thought-for-thought” translations focus on _____.
5. The ESV attempts to balance accuracy and _____.
6. The NIV is known for being more _____.
7. Interlinears help us study the _____ languages.
8. Believers should _____ everything.

Challenging

1. The KJV uses manuscripts that are not as _____.
2. Translator bias can sometimes create _____ in understanding.
3. When confusion arises, we should consult _____ tools.
4. The NASB aims to translate _____ from the original language.
5. The NIV places more trust in the _____ of the translator.

6. The goal of comparing translations is to gain _____.
7. Some translations should be avoided because they rely too heavily on _____.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it important to recognize that no Bible translation is perfect?
2. What are the strengths and weaknesses of “word-for-word” translations?
3. What are the risks of relying on “thought-for-thought” translations?
4. How can comparing multiple Bible translations improve understanding?
5. What are some signs that translator bias may be present in a passage?
6. Why is it important to use interlinear tools in Bible study?
7. How does this teaching connect to the principle of “testing everything”?
8. What practical steps can you take to deepen your study of Scripture?

ANSWER KEY

Basic

1. Translation
2. Manuscripts
3. Accuracy
4. Meaning (or Thought)
5. Readability
6. Understandable (or Readable)
7. Original
8. Test

Challenging

1. Old
2. Confusion (or Contradictions)
3. Interlinear
4. Word-for-word
5. Thoughts (or Interpretation)
6. Clarity
7. Interpretation