

4 - What About the Version

The WORD

Icebreaker:

Have a quick test to see how many versions of the Bible your group can identify from their initials:

- KJV [King James Version]
- NIV [New International Version]
- NASB [New American Standard Version]
- RSV [Revised Standard Version]
- ESV [English Standard Version]
- HCSB [Holman Christian Standard Bible]
- NLT [New Living Translation]
- NCV [New Century Version]
- NEB [New English Bible]
- ASV [American Standard Version]
- TEV [Today's English Version]
- CEV [Contemporary English Version]
- CEB [Common English Bible]
- NirV [New International Readers Version]
- NCV [New Century Version]
- NKJV [New King James Version]
- MSG [The Message]
- TLB [The Living Bible]
- AMP [Amplified Bible]
- GNB [Good News Bible]

Watch the Video

Discussion Questions:

1. What version of the Bible do you use most often?
2. How many versions of the Bible do you own? How many do you use?
3. Review the types of Bible versions:
 - Word for word - each word is translated with an equivalent word
 - Thought for thought - translators attempt to capture the meaning of each thought (also called "dynamic equivalence")
 - Balanced - uses both word for word and thought for thought
 - Paraphrase - a re-statement of a translation in modern vocabulary, sometimes expanded or amplified for clarity
4. How could different types of versions be helpful in different situations?
5. Take a look at Psalm 23 in several versions. What do you note that is different? What is the same?

Psalm 119:11

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.