



HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

PART 2 - DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

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PROOF TEXTING

What is Proof Texting?

Websters Definition of proof text: a Scriptural passage adduced as proof for a theological doctrine, belief, or principle

From biblestudy.org

“Many times, when someone discusses what the Bible teaches what they may use, even though they may be unaware of it, what is called Proof Text. Proof texting uses certain short passages, many times only a single verse, pulled from the Bible in support of a particular belief or doctrine.

The problem with this method is that the person who is Proof texting usually gives their selected verses a meaning that may be entirely different from what the writer intended. The Bible is written in such a way that most verses cannot be correctly understood in a stand-alone fashion. The context of a particular verse, who wrote it, the time period in which it was written, where did they write it, etc. is needed to arrive at what God intended it to convey.

Proof texting can easily lead to wrong conclusions regarding what is the truth of God.”

Some examples from scripture – consider the context!

Revelation 3:20

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.”

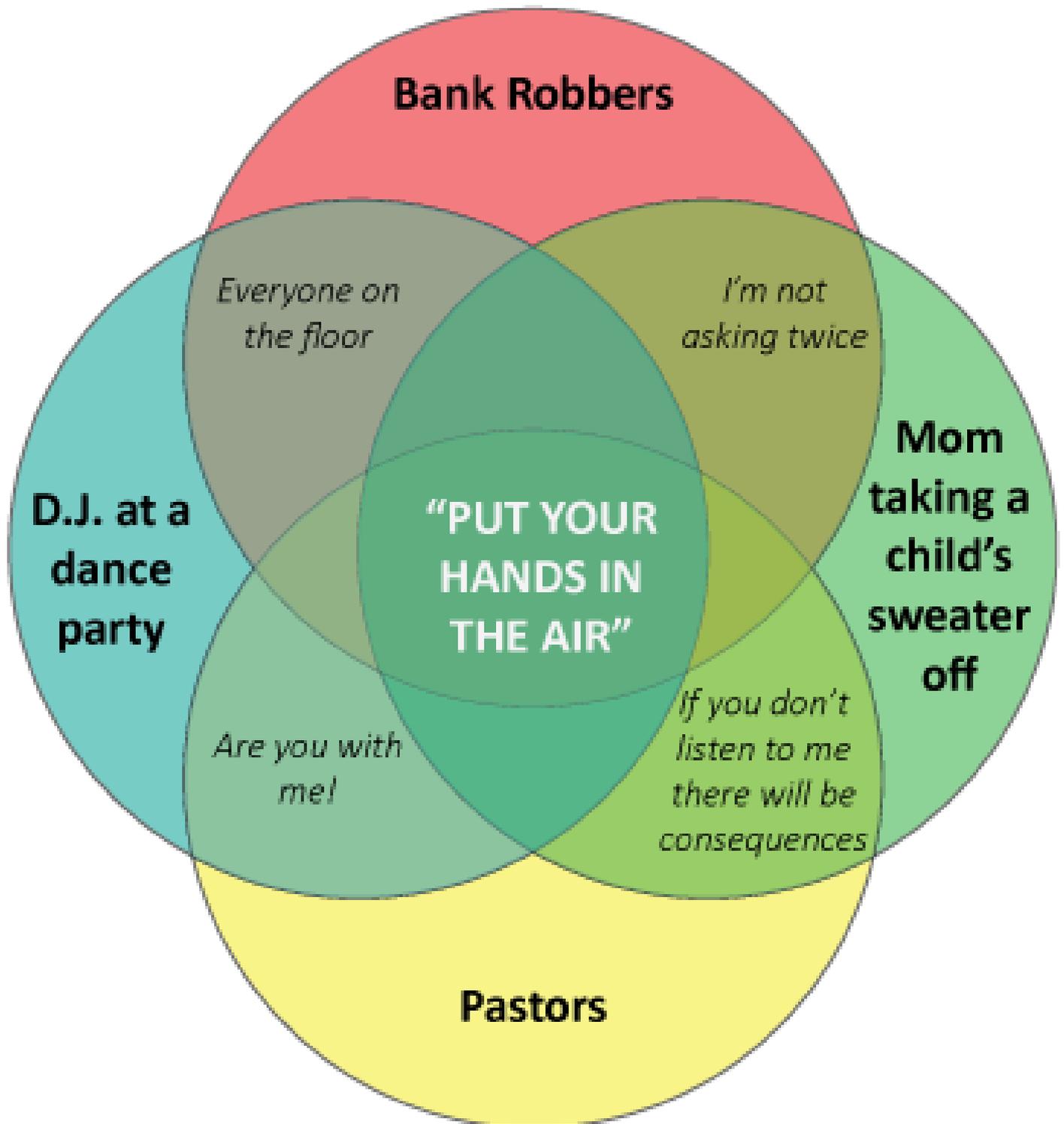
Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Romans 8:28

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Another way of considering why context matters...



Indeed, context is so crucial to interpretation that it is no exaggeration whatsoever to say that if you alter the *context* of a word or sentence or paragraph, you also alter the *content* of that text. Sometimes the effect is relatively minimal, but often it can be very significant. For example, the meaning conveyed by a person shouting “Fire!” is thoroughly conditioned by the circumstances in which he or she shouts that word: while running out of a house engulfed in flames, while sitting inside a movie theater that is not burning, or while standing beside a line of men armed with rifles facing a lone man who is blindfolded. The meaning of that one simple word is clearly very context-dependent. (Michael J. Gorman, Elements of Biblical Exegesis)

When we talk about context, there are two kinds:

1. _____ Context
2. _____ Context

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

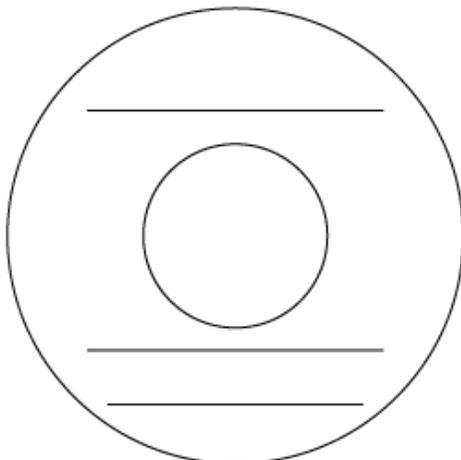
⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

TABLE TALK

1. Where do you usually hear this text preached?
2. What is the usual tone of the reading?

How do the two surrounding chapters inform our understanding of our text?



Hint: 12:1; 14:1

1. _____ (*pneumatikos*) = spirituality/spiritual person

1 Cor. 12:4

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;

2. _____ (*charisma*) = spiritual gift

1 Cor. 12:28-31

And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

The word "spiritual" (*pneumatikos*) occurs _____ in 1 Corinthians.

1 Cor. 14:37

Anyone who claims to be a prophet, or to have spiritual powers, must acknowledge that what I am writing to you is a command of the Lord.

12:1 → 14:1 → 14:37

1 Cor. 9:11

If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits?

1 Cor. 10:3-4

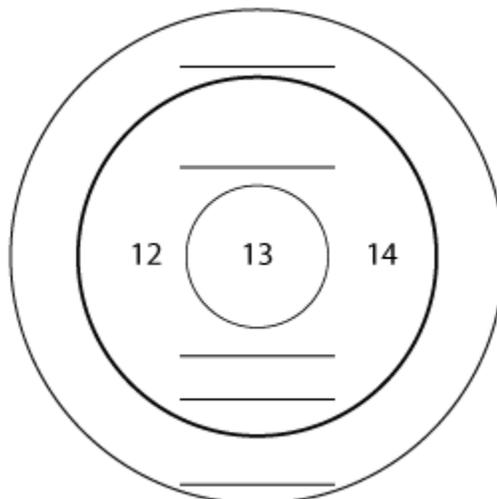
and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.

1 Cor. 12:1

"Now concerning spiritual gifts..."

Where else in 1 Corinthians (both before and after 1 Corinthians 13) do we observe this literary device used by the author to connect the text to the surrounding context?

1 Cor. 7:	
1 Cor. 7:	
1 Cor. 8:	
1 Cor. 16:	
1 Cor. 16:	



Context of 1 Corinthians 13

Historical – answering questions sent to Paul in a letter

1. How do I handle my _____ now that I am a Christian (7:1)
2. How does the gospel have an impact on my _____? (What about food offered to idols?) 8:1

2 Words:

1. Spiritual
2. Spiritual gift

1 Cor. 1:4-7

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Cor. 2:13-16, 3:1

And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴*Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.*

¹⁶*"For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.*

3 *And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ.*

What is going on in Corinth?

The Corinthian church was spiritually _____, but spiritually _____.

1 Cor. 3:3

For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations?

1 Cor. 1:10-11

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters.

1 Corinthians

Structure

1. Response to a _____ give to Paul (chapters 1-6)
2. Response to their _____. (chapters 7-16)

1 Cor. 11:18-19, 17

1 Cor. 13:4-5

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or *arrogant* ⁵or rude.

"Arrogant"

1 Cor. 4:6

⁶ I have applied all this to Apollos and myself for your benefit, brothers and sisters, so that you may learn through us the meaning of the saying, "Nothing beyond what is written," so that none of you will be puffed up in favor of one against another.

1 Cor. 4:18

¹⁸ But some of you, thinking that I am not coming to you, have become arrogant.

1 Cor. 5:2

² And you are arrogant!

Tonal Quality 1 Cor. 13: _____.

It has been said that a text without a context is a pretext—an excuse for finding one's presuppositions confirmed by the text. In other words, many misinterpretations of the Bible are due to neglect of the literary context. To understand a passage, you must try to see how it fits into the larger literary unit(s) in which it occurs: for instance, the chapter, the section of the biblical book, and the book as a whole. (Michael Gorman, Elements of Biblical Exegesis)

COMA

Context, Observation, Meaning, Application

Pray: Ask God to guide you in understanding His Word. Read the passage aloud together.

CONTEXT:

What sort of writing is this? (e.g., a letter, a narrative, a poem) Are there any clues about the circumstances in which the passage/ teaching was written or taught? What has been happening (or what has been taught) so far? . . . especially in the section just prior to the passage you are reading?

OBSERVATION:

Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the text? What seems to be the main point or points? Are there any surprises? (e.g., unexpected developments, tensions, reactions, teaching, etc.) What are the key words? Any words or ideas repeated?

MEANING:

How does this passage relate to other parts of the book? What does this teach us about God? How does this passage relate to Jesus? How could we sum up the meaning of this passage in our own words?

APPLICATION:

How does this passage challenge (or confirm) my understanding: of God? of following Jesus? of our human condition? of myself? Is there some attitude I need to change? How does this passage call on me to change the way I live?

Pray together about what you have learned

COMA Application to Revelation

Questions for apocalyptic literature

Pray: Ask God to guide you in understanding His Word. Read the passage aloud together.

CONTEXT:

Are there any clues about the historical circumstances the literature is addressing?

OBSERVATION:

What images are used in the passage?

What effect do they have?

What emotions does the passage arouse (e.g. fear, expectation, awe)?

Where in this passage might we find hope for men and women? Is there a crisis in the passage? What is the tension/conflict about, and how does it relate to readers?

MEANING:

Are there specific instructions/commands given to the reader?

Does this passage mention any consequences for not following God's commands?

Does the text have a sense of expectation about something happening in the future?

What is to be expected and when? How should this motivate action in the present?

Is the gospel foreshadowed or looked back upon in some way?

APPLICATION:

How is your situation similar to or different from those being addressed?

How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?

How does this passage lead you to trust God and his promises in Jesus?

Resource Links

RightNow Media

Revelation Part 1 and 2 from the Bible Project – Read Scripture Series

- Revelation Part 1: <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/player/video/181310?session=229990&drawer=outline>
- Revelation Part 2: <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/player/video/181310?session=238647&drawer=outline>

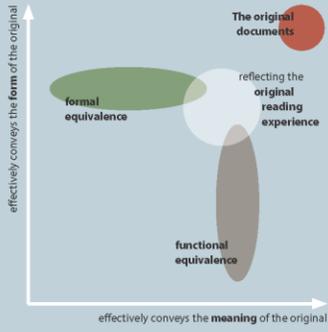
RightNow Media is a free resource to all who attend Southview Church. If you don't have your free account today, request an account by scanning this qr code:



BIBLE TRANSLATION CHART

ZONDERVAN BIBLES

CHOOSING A BIBLE TRANSLATION



When the documents that make up the Bible were first written, they captured exactly what God wanted to say in the languages that ordinary people spoke. There was no friction between perceiving the **form** or structure of the text and perceiving the **meaning** of the text. The original audience experienced a unique combination of both ingredients—represented by the red dot in the top right corner of the diagram.

But Bible readers today can't experience this combination any more. The Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic texts still show us the form and structure of the original but most of us can't understand what they mean. As English speakers, we need translations, and we're privileged to have access to a wide variety of options that fall into three broad groups.

Tending to the upper left corner of the diagram, the first group—represented by the green oval and known to scholars as formal equivalence translations—places a particularly high priority on reproducing the form and structure of the original. This approach allows modern Bible readers to perceive many of the important details and subtleties in the text. Ease of understanding varies from verse to verse and from book to book, but all verses and all books achieve a high standard of transparency to the original languages.

Tending to the lower right corner of the diagram, the second group—represented by the brown oval and known to scholars as functional or "dynamic" equivalence translations—place a particularly high priority on reproducing the meaning of the original. This approach helps modern Bible readers understand the impact and implications of God's message in words that they can relate to and grasp quickly. Transparency to the form and structure of the original documents varies from verse to verse and from book to book, but all verses and all books achieve ease of understanding.

Tending to the upper right corner of the diagram, a third group of translations—represented by the white circle—seeks to recover the priorities of the original documents themselves, allowing readers to perceive the **form** of the original and the **meaning** of the original at the same time. Striving for the optimum blend of authenticity and accessibility in every verse, these translations allow modern-day readers to experience—as far as possible—what it would have felt like to be part of the Bible's original audience.

TRANSLATION	TRANSLATION PHILOSOPHY	1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-5	DISTINCTIVE
NIV New International Version	Recreating—as closely as possible—the reading experience of the original audience	"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs."	Created directly from the best-attested manuscripts, the NIV is the world's bestselling 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.
NAB New American Bible	Seeking to combine transparency to the source documents with a good level of comprehensibility in modern English	"Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not proud, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury."	Published under the direction of Pope Pius XII, this Catholic version of the Bible represents more than 25 years of effort by the Catholic Biblical Association of America. All editions include the Deuterocanonical/Apocryphal books.
HCSB Holman Christian Standard Bible	Blending transparency to the original documents with accessibility for the contemporary audience	"Love is patient; love is kind. Love does not envy; is not boastful; is not conceited; does not act improperly; is not selfish; is not provoked; does not keep a record of wrongs;"	Produced under the sponsorship of the Southern Baptist Convention, the HCSB seeks to combine transparency to the original documents with comprehensibility in modern English.
NASB New American Standard Bible	An uncompromising effort to maximize transparency to the original documents	"Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered,"	An update of the American Standard Version, which was published in 1901. The NASB seeks the highest possible level of transparency to the original documents that can be achieved while still retaining comprehensibility in English.
KJV King James Version	Blending transparency to the form and structure of the Bible documents that were available at the time with elegant 17 th -century English	"Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;"	A landmark in the history of English literature. Published in 1611, the translation's purpose was "to deliver God's book unto God's people in a tongue which they can understand."
NKJV New King James Version	Prioritizing transparency to the same source documents as the original KJV but with updated English	"Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;"	A modern update of the King James Version. The purpose was to refresh and modernize the original KJV without losing its distinctive flavor.
NRSV New Revised Standard Version	Maintaining the formal equivalence philosophy of the RSV while seeking to reflect contemporary English usage	"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;"	An ecumenical revision of the Revised Standard Version (1951) with a new focus on ease of understanding.
ESV English Standard Version	Building on the foundation of the RSV, prioritizing transparency to the original documents	"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful"	An Evangelical update of the Revised Standard Version (1951). The ESV prioritizes transparency to the form and structure of the original documents.
NIRV New International Reader's Version	Written at a third grade reading level—among the youngest reading level of any translation—the NIRV is based on the NIV created for young readers and anyone else who would benefit from easier-to-read language.	"Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not want what belongs to others. It does not brag. It is not proud. It does not dishonor other people. It does not look out for its own interests. It does not easily become angry. It does not keep track of other people's wrongs."	The NIRV is based on the NIV, written for a third-grade reading level. Like the NIV, the NIRV achieves great accuracy through equal rigor to the original languages and today's English. The NIRV makes the Bible understandable to young readers and anyone else who would benefit from easier-to-read language.
NLT New Living Translation	Balancing accuracy and clarity to convey the original meaning of the text	"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged."	Translated by a team of evangelical Bible scholars and stylists to convey the modern English equivalent of the meaning of each phrase of Scripture. The result is a faithful, understandable rendering of the original Biblical texts.
CEV Contemporary English Version	Prioritizing accessibility for a broad audience	"Love is kind and patient, never jealous, boastful, proud, or rude. Love isn't selfish or quick tempered. It doesn't keep a record of wrongs that others do."	Written at an elementary-school reading level, the CEV is readable and understandable for the modern reader. It features a large number of footnotes that explain cultural and technical terms.
NCV New Century Version	Prioritizing accessibility for a broad audience	"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and it is not proud. Love is not rude, is not selfish, and does not get upset with others. Love does not count up wrongs that have been done."	Based on the ICB (International Children's Bible), the NCV is a simple, readable translation that places the priority on communicating the original meaning of the text.
ICB International Children's Bible®	The first direct thought-for-thought translation developed especially for children as its primary reading audience. With its third grade reading level, the text is easy to read and understand for children, English as a second language readers, and anyone who desires a clear comprehension of the text.	"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and it is not proud. Love is not rude, is not selfish, and does not become angry easily. Love does not remember wrongs done against it."	The International Children's Bible® was faithfully created as a true translation of the original Greek and Hebrew texts (not a paraphrase or an adaptation). The language style is simple enough for children to read and understand on their own. This makes it a perfect choice for readers of all ages and levels, especially those who use English as a second language.
The Voice	Story-like format of Scripture providing dynamic connection for group, performance, and personal study.	"Love is patient; love is kind. Love isn't envious, doesn't boast, brag, or strut about. There's no arrogance in love; it's never rude, crude, or insolent—it's not self-absorbed. Love isn't easily upset. Love doesn't tally wrongs?"	The Voice is a dynamic equivalent translation that reads like a story and brings the Scripture to life, representing a collaboration among scholars, writers, musicians, and other artists. It is ideal for reading and group studies, and its scripted format makes it perfect for public reading.
The Message A Paraphrase	A contemporary rendering of the message of the Bible in everyday idioms	"Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always 'me first,' doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others,"	The Message uses informal modern English to help contemporary Bible readers feel the vitality and directness with which God's word originally communicated.
AMP Amplified Bible	A broadly formal equivalent translation with explanatory alternate readings and amplifications	"It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]."	A popular resource that was created to add color to the Bible reading experience through explanatory alternate readings and amplifications.

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