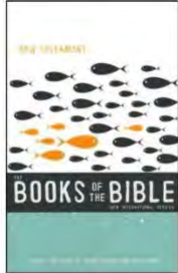


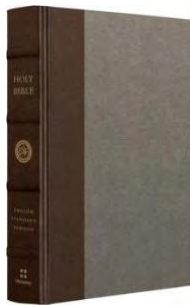
The Scoop on Reader's Bibles

Single Volume

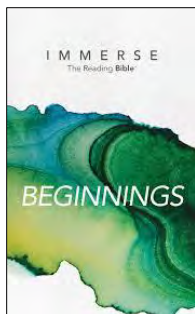
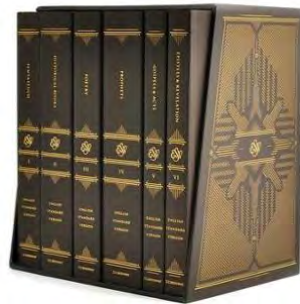
Whole Bible



[Books of the Bible \(NIV\)](#)



[ESV Reader's Bible \(Crossway\)](#)



[Immerse by Tyndale \(NLT\)](#)



[NIV Reader's Bible \(Zondervan\)](#)

Why might a reader's version of the Bible attract an educator? A reader's version removes certain "helps" that often become *enablers* and *distractors*.

1. **Traditional Bibles summarize text in advance of reading it.** A reader's Bible allows students to do the work of finding the natural literary breaks and summarizing each section on their own.
2. **Traditional Bibles are difficult to mark up.** Since they use very thin paper and already have footnotes and study notes scattered throughout, it reduces the incentive to make your own markings and study notes.
3. **The "helps" can distract and weighdown the reader.** We struggle to read the Bible at length, and many readers never get through it. Study notes may take one's time and focus off of the text itself, while reader's Bibles keep commentary to the beginning or end of each book.
4. **The "helps" can de-incentivize lengthy reading.** It has become culturally common to read just a chapter or two and stop. But when chapter numbers are removed, this habit is harder to maintain, just as it is harder to "cherry pick" favorite verses when individual verses are not labeled. The data shows that readers read *longer* in a reader's Bible where numbers and subdivisions have been removed.

Other Educational Benefits:

Literary Layout: Reader's versions use a single column of text like traditional books. They are formatted to reflect the genre, so letters look like letters, poems look like poems, and lists look like lists.

- Students are reminded they are reading a historical narrative or a poem, rather than a reference work or collection of verses.
- Bible class can better implement the tools of English class by using what students already know about the given genre.

Available in all major translations, including NIV, ESV, and NLT. Some sample reader's Bibles are pictured to the left.