

## Life in the Word

Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,

**who walk according to the law of the LORD.**

Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart

**- they do no wrong but follow his ways.**

You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed.

**Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees!**

Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands.

**I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws.**

**I will obey your decrees; do not utterly forsake me.**

(Psalm 119:1-8)

SONG Lord for the Years (or Splendour of the King)

THOUGHTS on last week's Scripture readings; 5-10mins – DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION

How has relevance of OT come across to you? What if anything do you struggle with? What about the idea that Jesus is the Word/ the Word is also the Bible?

TALK 1

DISCUSSION

How often do you read the Bible/ how easily do you 'stick' with the Word in the face of what the world is chucking against us, or in spite of the world? What are the difficulties you find?

SONG Jesus, holy and anointed one

READING; Isaiah 52:13-53:12

TALK 2

TO THINK ABOUT;

Galatians 6:2; Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Importance of context)

DISCUSSION

Share how YOU go about reading the Bible; eg when, where, how often. Do you use notes? If so which? Personal Testimony of transforming power of the Bible

FEEDBACK

SONG

There is a higher throne

CLOSING PRAYER & GRACE

## The Top 10

Apart from the venerable King James Version (Authorized Version) of 1611, here is a list of ten modern Protestant versions in use in Britain today. The first three are revisions of the KJV and fall into the word-for-word category:

1. **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV, 1989).** With inclusive language.
2. **English Standard Version (ESV, 2001).** Its cousin, but without the inclusive language.
3. **New King James Version (NKJV, 1982).** A KJV with the thee/thou language updated.

Others, not in the King James tradition, include:

4. **New International Version (NIV, 1978).** A best-selling translation, taking a middle approach between word-for-word and meaning-for-meaning.
5. **Today's NIV (TNIV, 2001).** An updated NIV, now with inclusive language.

6. **Good News Bible (GNB, 1976).** A meaning-for-meaning version. Used by children as well as adults.
7. **Contemporary English Version (CEV, 1995).** Similar to the GNB, but taking the meaning-for-meaning principle still further.
8. **New Living Translation (NLT 1996, revised 2004).** Another good meaning-for-meaning version, with expressive language. More sophisticated than the GNB or CEV.
9. **New Century Version (NCV, 1987).** Somewhere between the NIV and GNB. Several editions are aimed at teenagers. A simplified adaptation, the International Children's Bible, is good for pre-teens.
10. **The Message (1993).** A passionate and powerful paraphrase by Eugene Peterson.

Here is a chart of all these Bibles:

## THE BIBLE TRANSLATION SPECTRUM

