
The \$100



Bible Study Library

BibleStudy.Tips 

The \$100 Bible Study Library

When most people think about Bible study they get overwhelmed. They feel it's too complicated. Or they believe it requires a set of tools they cannot afford. They imagine someone like a pastor or a seminary professor who has access to ceiling high bookshelves filled with all the books anyone would ever need. If they're going to make any sense of the Bible they think they need all the same tools.

This needn't be the case. Studying the Bible is easier than you might think. With the right tools in hand, you will not be left wanting when you sit down to read your Bible.

I don't want you to be frustrated. My deepest desire is for you to understand the Bible. That's why I've put together this resource! I want to show you the absolute essentials needed to build a Bible study library you can both be proud of & use to make sense of God's Word.

While there are a plethora of Bible study tools to choose from, you only need three (3) things to have a solid library: 1) a good study Bible, 2) a full Bible commentary, and 3) a Bible dictionary.

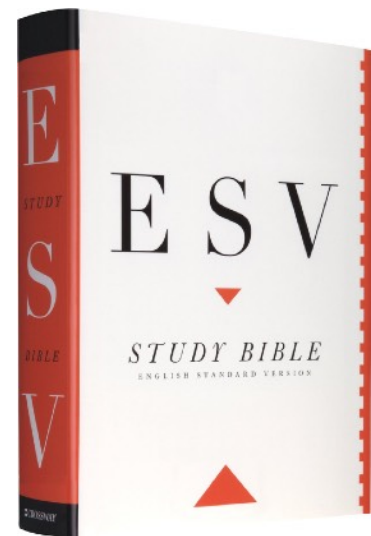
Now, you could easily spend hundreds or thousands of dollars building a library; but, as the title of this book says, I'm going to show you how to do this for \$100 or less.

Are you ready? Let's get started!

1 - A Good Study Bible

Study Bibles are great because they are an all-in-one resource. You get your Bible text, some commentary, introductions, and a wealth of other tools. With so many Study Bibles on the market, wisdom is needed to make your purchase. You want to make sure you're buying something that helps you understand what you're reading

and keeps things in their proper context. A good Study Bible should contain: thorough study notes, book introductions, outlines for each book, cross references to related passages, a concordance or dictionary, maps to get a lay of the land, charts & illustrations, and Bible chronologies. If a Study Bible doesn't include these things, you shouldn't waste your money.



My favorite Study Bible is the *ESV Study Bible* from Crossway. This is one of the most comprehensive Study Bibles on the market today. Nearly a decade later and very few Study Bibles have come close to competing with it. It has everything I listed above and then some.

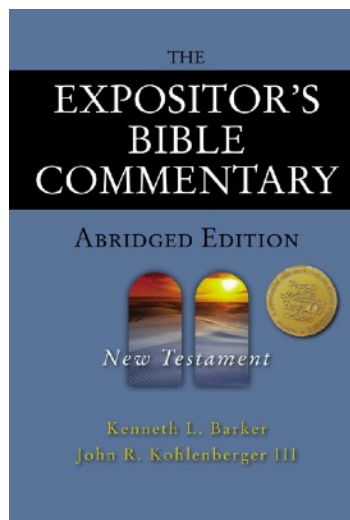
Depending on style, size, and where you purchase it, you can buy the *ESV Study Bible* for as little as \$30.

If you prefer another Bible translation, such as the NIV or KJV, you can find similarly priced Study Bibles. The key is to make sure it has all the things I mentioned above.

ESV Study Bible - \$30 ([Amazon](#), [CBD](#), [Olive Tree](#))

2 - Full Bible Commentary

Bible commentaries come in many flavors and vary in the audiences they target. The category of commentary is often reflected in its price. Because of their depth, commentaries can quickly become the most expensive tool in your library. For the sake of building our \$100 Bible study library, I recommend single volume commentaries. These commentaries are designed for all Christians and cover the Bible in its entirety. While these commentaries may not be as thorough as their single-book counterparts, the editors take care in explaining any difficult passages. One downside is single volume commentaries are often light on maps & charts. But



that's why you were meticulous in choosing your Study Bible.

Of all the single volume commentaries on the market, the two I recommend are the *New Bible Commentary* and the *Expositor's Bible Commentary: Abridged Edition*. Both of these commentaries do an excellent job helping you understand any passage you find yourself studying. Comparing the two, *Expositor's* is a bit more comprehensive as it's actually two books (Old and New Testament),

whereas *New Bible Commentary* is a single volume & about half the total number of pages. Breadth aside, either gets the job done.

Depending on where you make your purchase, you can find the *New Bible Commentary* for \$40 or less, while the *Expositor's Bible Commentary: Abridged Edition* runs between \$50 and \$60.

New Bible Commentary - \$40 ([Amazon](#), [CBD](#), [Olive Tree](#))

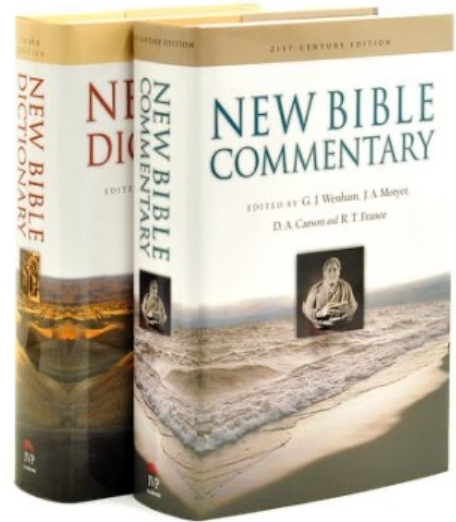
Expositor's Bible Commentary: Abridged Edition - \$50-60 ([Amazon](#), [CBD](#), [Olive Tree](#))

3 - Bible Dictionary

Commentaries and Study Bibles are great at explaining the text of the Bible, but they don't always go into detail about some of the concepts and words used. This is where a good Bible Dictionary comes into play. Bible Dictionaries are, in effect, encyclopedias for the Bible. To illustrate how you'd use one, let's say you're reading the gospels and the Pharisees and Sadducees are on the scene. These guys weren't anywhere in the Old Testament. Where did they come from? Where did they get their authority? A Bible Dictionary will explain who they are so you're not left clueless about their role and why they were not in the Old Testament. They're also useful

when you need background information on cities, people, and just about anything else you might encounter.

When it comes to picking a Bible Dictionary, there are two I recommend: *The Essential Bible Dictionary* and the *New Bible Dictionary*. Your choice of dictionary will largely depend on your budget and the other resources you're purchasing.



The Essential Bible Dictionary is smaller and its definitions are more succinct. This one reads more like a dictionary than an encyclopedia, but it still gives you all the vital information you need. One benefit is that it does contain full color images & maps, which can be helpful in your studies. This dictionary retails for \$15. If you're buying the *Expositor's Commentary* & looking to stick within the \$100 budget, this is the dictionary to buy. It's perfect for answering your questions & quickly getting you back to your study.

The *New Bible Dictionary* is a good bit larger and contains more in-depth entries than you'll find in the above dictionary. If you're more the curious type this is the one you'll want. It's an A - Z of Bible terms, place names, books, people and doctrine. Plus, it's recognized by many as an essential reference work. You can purchase this dictionary for about \$40. Yet, if you buy it in conjunction with the *New Bible Commentary* you can find it in a bundle for \$60 or \$70.

Essential Bible Dictionary - \$15 ([Amazon](#), [CBD](#), [Olive Tree](#))

New Bible Dictionary - \$40 ([Amazon](#), [CBD](#), [Olive Tree](#))

New Bible Commentary & Dictionary Combo - \$60-70 ([CBD](#), [Olive Tree](#))

Going Digital

If you're like me and enjoy living in the digital age, another alternative is to consider investing in Bible software. When you invest in Bible Software you can access all the resources I mentioned above on your computer, smartphone, or tablet. Instead of flipping pages back and forth, everything is only a mouse click or finger tap away. Not to mention, it's easier to carry an entire library worth of information digitally than as hardbound books. No matter the platform, if a Bible software application runs on it, you can most likely use your purchased resources. Of course, digital isn't for everyone, but it's an option for those who are technically inclined.

My preferred Bible software platform is [Olive Tree](#). Here are a few reasons why I like it: 1) it's free, 2) you can buy resources a la carte, and 3) you don't need to be online to use the mobile apps. Another great alternative is [Accordance](#).

If you plan on building your Bible study library with Olive Tree there are a few additional benefits as well, such as many free resources you can add to make your library more robust. Some free titles include: several free Bible translations (ESV, NKJV, NIV, KJV, HCSB), *Easton's Bible Dictionary*, as well as *Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary*. All of these are resources I'd recommend having in your library.

Going Further

If you buy these three tools I can assure you that you will be well on your way to Bible study success!

I make use of these resources almost daily and they have never failed me.

As time goes on and if you feel inclined, you can expand your library and dig even deeper. But don't be fooled, this is all you need to start making sense of the Bible!

I'd love to hear from you if you found this ebook helpful. Send me an email at LaRosa@BibleStudy.Tips.

Grace & Peace!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LaRosa', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

LaRosa Johnson - The Bible Study Guy
BibleStudy.Tips