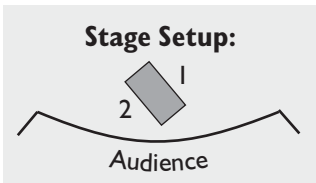


CROSSPOINT

S C R I P T S E R V I C E



Bible Mart

Synopsis: A novice Bible reader must navigate the intimidating channels of retail Bible sales, choosing translation, edition, format, age, gender, occupation and color. Raises the question of how necessary all the options really are.

Themes: Bible, Discipleship, Growth, Evangelism.

Time requirements: 4 minutes

Characters: **Salesperson** – friendly, but a bit patronizing and eager to make a sale.
Reader – intelligent, but new to the Bible and Bible “environment.”

Props: Lots and lots of Bibles. Table or shelf to display them. If you use a table, cover it with cloth to improve the display.



Author’s Note:

Scene opens on a retail setting with “2” just entering the store.



Blocking: Since people don’t typically sit down in stores, all the action is done standing and centered around the large table of Bibles.

direction

script

- 1:** Hello, can I help you?
- 2:** I just need to pick up a Bible. Somebody said you carry them here?
- 1:** Yes, what kind did you want?
- 2:** I guess just your basic Bible.
- 1:** Well, it’s not that simple. We have a lot of different kinds.
- 2:** I dunno. Isn’t there just a sort of...standard...Bible?
- 1:** Standard? Well there’s the Revised Standard, and the English Standard, and the New American Standard.
- 2:** There’s three Standards?
- 1:** Oh, there’s more than that.
- 2:** Well, I guess just pick one and that will be fine.
- 1:** Which one?
- 2:** Well I dunno. Do have a recommendation?
- 1:** Well let me show you your options. I’d go with the NAS because then you can get it in so many more editions.
- 2:** Editions?

direction

script

1: Well, you've got the Men's Bible and the Women's Bible.

2: Men's, I guess.

1: Well there's also the Leaders Bible and the Followers Bible. And the Small Groups Bible. Here's one I like. The Outdoorsman's Bible. It has a tough Cordura cover. Here's the Left-Handed Puerto Rican Electrician's Bible.

2: Wow. I had no idea.

1: Then you've got the Pocket Bibles. You can see these are very small, but the type is pretty small too. See this little pocket? It comes with a magnifying glass. Here's a Large Print Bible. Easy to read, but you need a forklift to carry it around.

1-minute mark

2: I guess medium-sized is fine.

1: Then you have the Student Bibles over here and the Children's Bibles here.

2: Adult is fine.

1: And you've got the Chronological Bible, the Topical Bibles, and the Devotional Bibles. And here's the One Year Bible. Then you've got the Parallel and Audio Versions over here.

2: One Year?

1: You read it through in a year.

2: Well, I was thinking of moving a little faster than that.

1: Here's the Life Recovery Bible in case you're...

2: What?

1: Recovering from something.

2: Well not to my knowledge.

1: Is this a gift? Because here's our whole line of gift and award Bibles.

2: No, it's just for me. I just need a simple Bible.

1: Well, you might as well get one that fits you and your needs.

2: But I don't even know my needs. That's why I wanted to try reading the Bible.

1: So you're new to all this?

2: I thought that was obvious by now.

2: Then you need a Study Bible.

2-minute mark



Author's Note:

Not all the Bibles have to be on the table. "I" can gesture toward additional unseen shelves.

direction

script



**Scripture Link:
Nehemiah 8:1-3**

All the people assembled as one man in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel. So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

3-minute mark



- 2:** What's that?
- 1:** Look, it has all these notes and helps in it.
- 2:** Notes about what?
- 1:** The Bible. It sorts out all the confusion and answers all your questions.
- 2:** But I'm not even confused yet. I don't even know enough to be confused.
- 1:** Well as soon as you start reading, you'll be confused. Then you'll wish for one of these.
- 2:** It's really that confusing?
- 1:** It's very confusing.
- 2:** Well, I guess I'll take one then.
- 1:** In the NAS or the NIV or the TLT or the TEV or the KJV or the ESV or the RSV?
- 2:** You just pick one.
- 1:** OK. Hardback or Leather?
- 2:** Uh, leather I guess.
- 1:** Brown, burgundy, tan, black, red, grey, or peach with teal accents?
- 2:** Tan is fine.
- 1:** Then this is your Bible, right here.
- 2:** Great. Wait. This says \$85.95?
- 1:** Yeah, we automatically give you a 10% discount off retail.
- 2:** That's the discount?
- 1:** Yeah.
- 2:** Well, this one's only \$6.95.
- 1:** Well that's just a Pew Bible.
- 2:** I kinda like it.
- 1:** It's a stripped-down version. No bells or whistles. No helps. Only three maps. It's barely even hardback.
- 2:** Yeah, but it's all there, right?
- 1:** What?

direction

script

2: The whole Bible is here, right? I mean it's not like you only get part of it.

1: Well technically, it's all there.

2: Well maybe I should start here. I could always upgrade later, right?

1: I suppose. But we don't do trade-ins. You'll be stuck with that one.

2: That's OK. I think it fits me.

1: OK, but don't say I didn't warn you.

2: I am forewarned. I can sign a waiver if you like.

1: I just bet you'll come back in here all confused.

2: Well lemme just try reading something (*reads silently*). OK, I understood that. That wasn't bad. I think this will be fine.

1: Then you got lucky. You'll be lost within ten minutes.

2: You're telling me the number one best-selling book of all time is too confusing for the average person to understand?

1: See for yourself.

2: I guess I will. I guess I'll have to.

4-minute mark➔

LIGHTS OUT

Devotional Thought:

One wonders if the whole process of making the Bible so available has really made it harder for people. It's easy to get the sense that only the greatest scholars in the world can actually understand it, and that the rest of us are left to read their notes. There's also a lot of money to be made in multiplying versions and editions. One might also wonder if there aren't some mixed motives in all that print. Compare our individualized Bible reading today with the experience of people in Nehemiah's time.



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Actors Used: _____