

# Homeschool Unit Plan

## *William Tyndale: The Man Who Gave Us the English Bible*

**Grade Level:** 5–8

**Time Frame:** 1–2 weeks (5–10 lessons)

**Subjects Covered:**

- History
  - Reading / Literature
  - Bible / Religious Studies
  - Vocabulary
  - Writing
  - Critical Thinking
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### Unit Overview

This unit explores the life, courage, and lasting impact of William Tyndale, the man whose English Bible helped change history. Students will learn about religious life in the 1500s, the dangers of Bible translation, and how one person's faith and determination shaped the English language and religious freedom.

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### Learning Objectives

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- Explain why the Bible was unavailable in English during the early 1500s
- Describe William Tyndale's education, beliefs, and mission
- Understand the risks Tyndale faced and why his work was controversial
- Identify phrases in modern English that came from Tyndale's Bible
- Explain Tyndale's lasting influence on the Bible and English language
- Reflect on courage, conviction, and faith

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## Materials Needed

- *William Tyndale* book (student reader)
- Notebook or binder
- Pencil or pen
- Printed quiz & answer key
- Optional: Bible (any English translation), map of Europe

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## Unit Schedule Overview

<b>Day</b>	<b>Focus</b>
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Day 1	Introduction & Chapter 1
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Day 2	Chapters 2–3
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Day 3	Chapters 4–5
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Day 4	Chapters 6–7
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Day 5	Chapters 8–9
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	Optional Review, Quiz, Project
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# Daily Lesson Plans

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## Day 1: A World Without an English Bible

**Reading:** Introduction + Chapter 1

**Discussion Questions:**

- Why couldn't most people understand church services?
- Why was Latin a problem for ordinary people?
- How might it feel to depend on others for spiritual truth?

**Activity:**

- Write a short paragraph: *What would it be like if you couldn't read the Bible yourself?*
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## Day 2: Early Life & A Dangerous Dream

**Reading:** Chapters 2–3

**Vocabulary Words:**

- Scripture
- Scholar
- Heresy
- Translation

**Discussion:**

- Why was Tyndale's dream considered dangerous?
- What does the "plowboy" quote show about his beliefs?

**Activity:**

- Timeline entry: Add Tyndale's birth, education, and decision to leave England.
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## Day 3: Life in Exile & Smuggling the Bible

**Reading:** Chapters 4–5

**Map Activity (optional):**

- Locate England, Hamburg, Cologne, Worms, Antwerp.

**Discussion:**

- Why did Tyndale have to live in hiding?
- How did the printing press help spread the Bible?

**Activity:**

- Draw or label a diagram showing how Bibles were smuggled into England.
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## Day 4: Why Tyndale’s Translation Mattered

**Reading:** Chapter 6–7

**Language Focus:**

Discuss phrases still used today:

- “Let there be light”
- “The powers that be”
- “My brother’s keeper”

**Discussion:**

- Why was everyday language important?
- How did Tyndale’s work threaten church authority?

**Activity:**

- Find 2 Bible verses in a modern English Bible and discuss why clarity matters.
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## Day 5: Martyrdom & Legacy

**Reading:** Chapters 8–9

**Discussion:**

- Why is Tyndale considered a martyr?
- How was his final prayer answered?
- Why does his work still matter today?

**Activity:**

- Write a reflection: *What lesson does William Tyndale's life teach us?*
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## Assessment Options

**Option 1: Written Quiz**

(Use the quiz + answer key already created)

**Option 2: Short Essay**

Prompt options:

- Why was William Tyndale willing to die for the Bible?
- How did one man change history?

**Option 3: Creative Project**

Choose one:

- Create a book cover or illustration
  - Write a letter as if you were Tyndale
  - Create a short presentation or poster
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## Grading Suggestions (Flexible)

Category	Points
Participation	20
Written Work	30
Quiz or Essay	30
Project	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

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## Faith & Character Connection (Optional)

### Character Traits Highlighted:

- Courage
- Faithfulness
- Perseverance
- Integrity

### Bible Connection:

- Psalm 119:105
  - Matthew 5:10
  - Hebrews 4:12
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## Extension Activities (Optional)

- Compare Tyndale's English to King James Version
- Research Martin Luther or Erasmus
- Discuss religious freedom today

# Teacher Answer Key

## William Tyndale – Daily Lesson Plans

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### Day 1: A World Without an English Bible

#### Discussion Questions – Suggested Answers

**1. Why couldn't most people understand church services?**

Because church services were spoken in **Latin**, which most ordinary people did not know.

**2. Why was Latin a problem for ordinary people?**

Latin was only taught to priests and scholars, so most people could not understand Scripture or sermons.

**3. How might it feel to depend on others for spiritual truth?**

Students may answer with feelings such as confusion, frustration, helplessness, or unfairness.

✓ *Accept thoughtful personal responses.*

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#### Activity – Writing Response Guidance

##### Paragraph should include:

- Lack of access to Scripture
- Emotional response (confused, dependent, limited)
- At least 3–5 complete sentences

✓ Grammar flexibility for younger students.

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### Day 2: Early Life & A Dangerous Dream

#### Vocabulary – Answer Key

- **Scripture:** The Bible; God's Word
- **Scholar:** A highly educated person who studies deeply
- **Heresy:** Beliefs considered against church teaching

- **Translation:** Changing text from one language to another

✓ *Paraphrased definitions acceptable.*

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### Discussion Questions – Suggested Answers

#### 1. Why was Tyndale’s dream considered dangerous?

Because translating the Bible into English challenged church authority and allowed people to think for themselves.

#### 2. What does the “plowboy” quote show about his beliefs?

It shows that Tyndale believed **everyone**, even poor and uneducated people, should understand the Bible.

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### Activity – Timeline Answer Key

Timeline should include:

- Birth: **c. 1494, Gloucestershire, England**
- Education: **Oxford and Cambridge Universities**
- Leaving England: **1524**

✓ *Approximate dates acceptable.*

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## Day 3: Life in Exile & Smuggling the Bible

### Map Activity – Answer Key

Students should locate:

- England
- Hamburg
- Cologne
- Worms
- Antwerp

✓ *General geographic accuracy acceptable.*

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## Discussion Questions – Suggested Answers

### 1. Why did Tyndale have to live in hiding?

Because translating the Bible into English was illegal and he was being hunted by church authorities.

### 2. How did the printing press help spread the Bible?

It allowed many copies of the Bible to be produced quickly and shared widely.

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## Activity – Smuggling Diagram Guidance

Diagram should show:

- Hidden Bibles (barrels, cloth, crates)
- Ships or merchants
- Secret movement into England

✓ Creativity encouraged.

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## Day 4: Why Tyndale's Translation Mattered

### Language Focus – Teaching Notes

Students should understand:

- Tyndale used **clear, everyday English**
  - His words shaped modern English
  - People could understand Scripture without a priest
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## Discussion Questions – Suggested Answers

### 1. Why was everyday language important?

So ordinary people could read and understand the Bible for themselves.

### 2. How did Tyndale's work threaten church authority?

People could question church teachings by reading Scripture directly.

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### Activity – Bible Verse Comparison Guidance

Look for:

- Clear explanation of meaning
- Recognition of clarity and simplicity
- Any modern English Bible is acceptable

✓ No single “correct” verse required.

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## Day 5: Martyrdom & Legacy

### Discussion Questions – Suggested Answers

#### 1. Why is Tyndale considered a martyr?

Because he was killed for his religious beliefs and Bible translation work.

#### 2. How was his final prayer answered?

England later approved an English Bible for churches.

#### 3. Why does his work still matter today?

Modern English Bibles still use his words, and people can freely read Scripture.

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### Activity – Reflection Writing Guidance

Reflection should include:

- Courage or faith
- Sacrifice
- Personal lesson learned

✓ Accept thoughtful, personal responses.

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### Assessment Options – Teacher Notes

#### Option 1: Written Quiz

- ✓ Use previously provided quiz and answer key.
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### **Option 2: Short Essay – Grading Guidance**

Essays should include:

- Clear answer to prompt
- At least 2 supporting details
- Understanding of Tyndale’s sacrifice

- ✓ Use essay rubric for scoring.
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### **Option 3: Creative Project – Grading Guidance**

Projects should show:

- Accuracy to Tyndale’s life
- Effort and creativity
- Student explanation

- ✓ Use creative project rubric.
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### **Teacher Reminder**

- ✓ Encourage discussion
- ✓ Reward understanding over memorization
- ✓ Allow flexibility based on age level