The purpose of this exercise is to show that although each version of the Bible says *approximately* the same thing, the individual words and inflections can change interpretations and understandings. It is also a demonstration as to why it is important that we all read the same version; although it is not necessary, it will make understanding the passages much easier.

Our example here is John 3:16, quite likely the most famous Bible verse of all time, famed in song and story.

**New American Bible (NAB – our class version and translation)** – For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.

**New International Version (NIV)** – For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**New American Standard (NAS)** – For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

**Amplified Bible (AB)** – For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life.

**King James Version (KJV)** – For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**American Standard Version (ASV)** – For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life.

**Darby Translation (DT)** – For God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believes on him may not perish, but have life eternal.

**Wycliffe Version (WV)** – For God loved so the world, that he gave his one begotten Son, that each man that believeth in him perish not, but have everlasting life.

**Revised Standard Version (RSV)** – For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.