

INTRODUCTION TO

THE ESV MINISTER'S BIBLE

The ESV Minister's Bible gives you the practical, Scripture-based guidance you need to minister to a hurting world.

As a minister, you have been called to be a source of strength, love, and encouragement for your congregation. You teach, pray, model Christ, and stand by those you minister to as they go through life's journey.

Pastoral care, although rewarding for those who give it, is never easy. Knowing what to say—and what not to say—when visiting a hospital patient or a grieving family member requires a sensitivity and a skill that most of us just don't have naturally. Even joyful occasions like weddings and baptisms present their own unique challenges for those presiding over them.

You also face the day-to-day demands of ministry. How do you best convey God's love to each and every member of your congregation? How do you answer difficult questions about what it means to be a Christian in today's world without watering down the truth of Scripture? How can you be a source of constant spiritual support for others and still maintain a healthy personal life yourself?

Mastering practical pastoral-care skills can help you increase your effectiveness in ministry. The "Ministry Resources Guide" found at the back of this Bible will prove invaluable to you as you encounter situations both difficult and mundane in your work.

Before you make your next visitation or conduct your next wedding or funeral, look through the guide for suggestions on how to communicate God's love and purpose to those under your care. The last section applies specifically to professional ministers, providing advice for how to deal with the stresses and strains of pastoral care.

Other features of this Bible include a full cross-reference system, a handy ESV concordance, and a list of key Bible promises. Together with a durable genuine leather binding, *The ESV Minister's Bible* is the perfect "on-the-go" Bible to equip everyone active in ministry. We pray that you will get years of service from this Bible as you faithfully serve God and his people.