



BIBLE TRANSLATION REVIEW GUIDE

ABSTRACT

An initial review of Bible Translation practices and effectiveness

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ACCELERATING
BIBLE
TRANSLATION

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Doctrine: God—Loving/Relational Nature

Positive Statement:

God is infinite and all-powerful, yet he is personal and cares for his creation.

God is concerned with the well-being of human beings and wants to have a relationship with them.

God is always present with his people and he can be trusted to do what is best for them.

God made it possible for his people to come to him, to seek his help, and to receive his grace and mercy. He has promised that he will never leave the people he loves.

God's love and grace is perfectly demonstrated in the life of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 11:28-30

Background: Jesus addressed a group who had followed him and they had been listening to his teaching. Here he spoke to the crowd as he finished his sermon.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Broad Questions		
Summarize what Jesus said.	<input type="checkbox"/> Christ invited the tired and burdened to come to him for rest. <input type="checkbox"/> People should take Jesus' yoke upon them and learn from him because he is gentle and humble. (People should become Jesus' disciples and learn from him because he is gentle and humble.) <input type="checkbox"/> Christ said that his way is easy and his burden is light. <input type="checkbox"/> Christ said that he gives rest for soul.	
Specific Questions		
What did Jesus tell his listeners to do? [11:28]	He told them to come to him, and learn from him. (He also said to take up his yoke.)	
What had Jesus offered to give to anyone who came to him? [11:28]	He offered to give them rest.	
What do you think Jesus meant when he said that he would give rest to those who came to him?	Jesus gives them spiritual rest. That means he causes them to have peace in their bodies, minds and spirits.	
What do you think it Jesus meant when he said "take my yoke upon you"?	It means they should become his disciple by obeying his teachings.	

Matthew 11:28-30 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
What did Jesus say about his nature? [11:29]	He said that he is gentle and humble.	
What do you think Jesus meant when he described himself as “gentle and humble”?	Any answer that demonstrates an understanding of Jesus’ kindness and caring nature is adequate.	
What does Jesus want them to know about what God is like?	Jesus tells them about how God cares about his people and he wants them to trust him, and that God gives them his peace.	
Follow-up (Use if there is a misunderstanding concerning a specific question.)		
<p>Example follow-up questions:</p> <p>How would you use this word/phrase “gentle and humble” in everyday language?</p> <p>Is there another word/phrase in your language that could be used to mean “to be gentle and humble”?</p>	<p>If possible, determine whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The word or phrase was not translated accurately. • There is something else in the passage that is confusing the reader. • The translation is correct, but the reader does not understand the term or concept. 	

Hebrews 4:14-16

Background: This passage is from the book of Hebrews. The author of Hebrews was addressing Jews who had become Christians. This section teaches that Jesus is greater than angels, the priests, the sacrifice, and the law given through Moses.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Broad Questions		
Summarize this passage.	<input type="checkbox"/> Jesus is a great high priest and the Son of God. <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus has passed through heavens. <input type="checkbox"/> Believers should hold firmly to the faith they profess. (Believers should continue to trust the Christian teachings.) <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus sympathizes with humans because he was tempted as all humans are tempted. <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus did not sin. <input type="checkbox"/> Believers should bravely approach the throne of grace to seek help and mercy	
Specific Questions		
In verse 14 how did the author describe Jesus?	Jesus is a great high priest and the Son of God.	
Where did the author say Jesus had gone? [4:14]	He had passed through the heavens.	
Since Jesus is a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, what should believers do? [4:14]	Believers should firmly hold to the belief they have in Christ. This means that Christians should continue believing the true teachings about Christ.	
How was Jesus like all believers? How was he different? [4:15]	He was like all believers when he lived on earth in a human body because he was tempted in the same way that all believers are tempted. But he was different from believers because he never sinned.	

Hebrews 4:14-16 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
What are believers told to do? [4:16]	Believers should go to the throne of grace, that God may be kind to them and help them even when they don't deserve it	
What do you think is meant by "go to the throne of grace"?	Here, the word "throne" represents God himself. This phrase means a person should go to God, who is gracious.	
How do you think a person goes before the throne of grace?	This is done through prayer-- talking directly to God. The translation should not imply that a person must go to heaven or to any physical location in order to go to God.	
What is the purpose of believers going to the throne of grace?	Believers go to the throne to receive mercy and find grace in times of need.	
With what attitude should believers go to throne of grace?	Believers should go to the throne of grace with confidence.	
What did verse 16 tell them about God?	He is gracious, merciful, and he helps believers in time of need even though they don't deserve it.	
Follow-up (Use if there is a misunderstanding concerning a specific question.)		
<p>Example follow-up questions:</p> <p>How would you use this word/phrase "to go before the throne of grace" in everyday language?</p> <p>Is there another word/phrase in your language that could be used to mean "to go before the throne of grace" or "to ask God for the grace he gives"?</p>	<p>If possible, determine whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The word or phrase was not translated accurately. • There is something else in the passage that is confusing the reader. • The translation is correct, but the reader does not understand the term or concept. 	

Doctrine: God—the Father

Positive Statement:

In the New Testament Jesus addressed God the Father, as “Holy Father” or “Father.”

God the Father is the first person of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Christians who are saved by faith in Christ are children of God, and “so Jesus is not ashamed to call them his brothers” (Hebrews 2:11).

God the Father is addressed in prayer by Christian people, and given praise throughout the New Testament.

Matthew 11:27

Background: This verse is from the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus is teaching the crowds.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Broad Questions		
Summarize what Jesus said in this verse.	<input type="checkbox"/> The Father entrusted all things to Jesus. <input type="checkbox"/> Only the Father knows the Son. <input type="checkbox"/> No one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son has revealed the Father.	
Specific Questions		
What did Jesus say that the Father has done?	The Father has entrusted all things to “me” (Jesus).	
Who knows the Son?	No one except the Father.	
Who does “the Son” refer to?	“The Son” refers to Jesus.	
Who knows the Father?	Only the Son and those to whom the Son reveals him.	
Are these the same words for father and son that you would use in you language to mean a human father and human son?	If answer is “no” then go to follow-up section.	
Follow-up (Use if there is a misunderstanding concerning a specific question.)		
<p>Example follow-up questions:</p> <p>How would you use this word/phrase for “father” and for “son” in everyday language?</p> <p>Is there another word/phrase in your language you would use to mean “a human father” or “a human son”?</p>	<p>If possible, determine whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The word or phrase was not translated accurately • There is something else in the passage that is confusing the reader • The translation is correct, but the reader does not understand the term or concept 	

Luke 11:2

Background: This verse is from the Gospel of Luke. Here, Jesus begins teaching his disciples how to pray.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Broad Questions		
Summarize what Jesus said in this verse.	<input type="checkbox"/> Jesus taught the disciples to pray. <input type="checkbox"/> He told them to call God "Father."	
Specific Questions		
What did Jesus tell his disciples to call God when they prayed?	He told them to pray to the Father.	
Is this the same word for "father" that you would use in everyday language to describe a human father?	If answer is "no" then go to follow-up section.	
Follow-up (Use if there is a misunderstanding concerning a specific question.)		
<p>Example follow-up questions:</p> <p>How would you use this word/phrase for "father" or for "son" in everyday language?</p> <p>Is there another word/phrase in your language you would use to mean "a human father" or "a human son"?</p>	<p>If possible, determine whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The word or phrase was not translated accurately • There is something else in the passage that is confusing the reader • The translation is correct, but the reader does not understand the term or concept 	

John 5:17-18

Background: In this section of John's Gospel, Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath day. This angered some of the Jewish leaders because they believed Jesus should not have done any work on the Sabbath. Jesus responded to them and he explained why he healed on the Sabbath.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Broad Questions		
Summarize what Jesus said in these verses.	<input type="checkbox"/> Jesus said that he is working and his Father is working too. <input type="checkbox"/> Jews wanted to kill Jesus for working on the Sabbath and for calling God "Father." <input type="checkbox"/> Jews believed calling God his "Father" meant Jesus was claiming to be equal to God.	
Specific Questions		
What did Jesus say about his Father in verse 17?	"My father is working even now."	
What did Jesus say about himself in verse 17?	"I too, am working."	
Why were the Jews angry when Jesus called God his father? [v. 18]	Because Jesus was making himself equal with God by calling God his own father.	
Is this the same word for "father" that you would use in your language to mean "a human father"?	If answer is "no" then go to follow-up section.	
Follow-up (Use if there is a misunderstanding concerning a specific question.)		
Example follow-up questions: How would you use this word/phrase in other language? Is there another word/phrase in your language you would use to mean "a human father"?	If possible, determine whether: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The word or phrase was not translated accurately • There is something else in the passage that is confusing the reader • The translation is correct, but the reader does not understand the term or concept 	

Ephesians 1:3

Background: This is the beginning of the letter that Paul wrote to the Christians who lived in the city of Ephesus.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Broad Questions		
Summarize what Paul said in 1:3.	<input type="checkbox"/> Paul praised God. <input type="checkbox"/> He called God the Father of Jesus. <input type="checkbox"/> God has blessed believers with every spiritual blessing.	
Specific Questions		
Who did Paul praise in verse 3?	Paul praised the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.	
Is this the same word for "father" that you would use in you everyday language to describe "a human father"?	If answer is "no" then go to follow-up section.	
Follow-up (Use if there is a misunderstanding concerning a specific question.)		
Example follow-up questions: How would you use this word/phrase "father" in everyday language? Is there another word/phrase in your language you would use to mean "a human father"?	If possible, determine whether: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The word or phrase was not translated accurately. • There is something else in the passage that is confusing the reader. • The translation is correct, but the reader does not understand the term or concept. 	

For Jesus: Deity of Christ [click here](#)

For Jesus: Son of God [click here](#)

Doctrine: Holy Spirit— The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

Positive Statement:

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity.

The Holy Spirit is fully God and therefore possesses all the attributes of God.

The Holy Spirit lives within believers and helps them. He convicts people of sin and warns of coming judgement.

He is referred to as a Comforter, Helper, and Advocate for the believer.

1 Corinthians 2:9-12

Background: This book is written by the Apostle Paul to the Christians in the city of Corinth. This passage starts with Paul quoting the prophet Isaiah from the Old Testament.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Broad Questions		
Summarize what this passage says.	<input type="checkbox"/> No one has seen, heard, or imagined the things that God has prepared for those who love him. <input type="checkbox"/> It is by the Holy Spirit that God tells people about the things he has prepared for them. <input type="checkbox"/> The Holy Spirit knows the mind of God, like the spirit of a person knows the person's thoughts. <input type="checkbox"/> Believers don't have the spirit of the world <input type="checkbox"/> Believers have the Spirit who is from God	
Specific Questions		
Who reveals to believers what God has given to them? [2:10]	His Spirit (the Holy Spirit) reveals it.	
In verse 11, what did Paul say about the Spirit of God?	The Spirit of God knows the thoughts of God, just like a person's thoughts are known by the spirit within himself.	
Why does God give the Spirit of God to people?	God gives the Spirit of God so that people might know the things that God wants to give them.	
What are the three spirits mentioned in this passage?	Spirit of God, spirit of the world, and spirit of the person.	

1 Corinthians 2:9-12 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Follow-up (Use if there is a misunderstanding concerning a specific question.)		
<p>Example follow-up questions:</p> <p>How would you use this word/phrase in other everyday language?</p> <p>Are there other words/phrases you would use to mean "Holy Spirit," "spirit of the world," and "spirit of a person"? [describe the meaning that the text should communicate]?</p>	<p>If possible, determine whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The word or phrase was not translated accurately • There is something else in the passage that is confusing the reader • The translation is correct, but the reader does not understand the term or concept 	

John 14:16-17

Background: This section is taken from the Gospel of John, where he writes about a conversation Jesus had with his disciples. Jesus had just told them that he would be leaving them, and so he gave them final instructions and words of encouragement.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Broad Questions		
Summarize what Jesus said in this passage.	<input type="checkbox"/> Jesus said he would pray to the Father and the Father would send the Comforter, the Spirit of truth. <input type="checkbox"/> The world cannot receive the Spirit, but the Spirit live in the disciples and be with them forever.	
Specific Questions		
What did Jesus say he would pray for? [14:16]	He would pray for the Father to send another Comforter.	
How do you understand the phrase in your language for "Comforter"?	The word "Comforter" in the original language refers to an advocate or counselor who helps a person in court. But other English versions also communicate these ideas: one who comforts, one who encourages, one who helps.	.
What other name did Jesus call "the Comforter"? [14:17]	He is also called the Spirit of Truth.	
How do you understand the phrase in your language for "Spirit of Truth"?	He is the Spirit who teaches what is true about God.	
How will the Spirit help and comfort them? [14:16-17]	The Spirit lives with them and will be in them forever.	

John 14:16-17 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Follow-up (Use if there is a misunderstanding concerning a specific question.)		
<p>Example follow-up questions:</p> <p>How would you use these words/phrases “Comforter” or “Spirit of truth” in everyday language?</p> <p>Are there other words/phrases you would use to mean “Comforter” or “Spirit of truth”? [describe the meaning that the text should communicate]</p>	<p>If possible, determine whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The word or phrase was not translated accurately • There is something else in the passage that is confusing the reader • The translation is correct, but the reader does not understand the term or concept 	

John 16:12-14

Background: This section is taken from the Gospel of John. This passage takes place at the end of Jesus' public ministry as Jesus was preparing his disciples for his arrest and death on the cross. He gives them more information about the work of the Spirit of Truth.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Broad Questions		
Summarize what Jesus said in this passage.	<input type="checkbox"/> Jesus wanted to tell his disciples many things, but they would not understand <input type="checkbox"/> The Spirit of Truth will guide them in all truth <input type="checkbox"/> The Spirit only speaks what he hears <input type="checkbox"/> The Spirit will glorify Jesus <input type="checkbox"/> The Spirit will hear what Jesus says and he will tell that to the disciples	
Specific Questions		
Who did Jesus say was coming? [16:13]	"The Spirit of Truth"	
How do you understand the phrase "Spirit of Truth" in your language?	This is the Spirit that teaches what is true about God.	
What did Jesus say the Spirit of Truth would do when he came? [16:13]	He would guide them into all truth, and would tell them everything that Jesus told him to teach them.	
What did Jesus say that the Spirit would tell the disciples? [16:13-14]	The Spirit would tell the disciples everything that he hears. He will tell them about the things that are to come.	

John 16:12-14 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Follow-up (Use if there is a misunderstanding concerning a specific question.)		
<p>Example follow-up questions:</p> <p>How would you use these words/phrases “Spirit of Truth” in everyday language?</p> <p>Are there other words/phrases you would use to mean “Spirit of Truth” in your language that you would understand to mean something of the nature of “the Spirit of Truth” or “the Spirit that speaks the truth” [describe the meaning that the text should communicate]</p>	<p>If possible, determine whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The word or phrase was not translated accurately • There is something else in the passage that is confusing the reader • The translation is correct, but the reader does not understand the term or concept 	

Romans 8:9-11

Background: This passage is from a letter that Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome. In this section Paul taught about the difference between being controlled by the sinful nature and being controlled by the Holy Spirit who is living within all Christians.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Broad Questions		
Summarize what Paul said in this passage.	<input type="checkbox"/> Christians are not in the flesh but in the Spirit. (Christians are not controlled by their sinful nature but are controlled by the Spirit.) <input type="checkbox"/> If someone does not have the Spirit they do not belong to Christ. <input type="checkbox"/> But if Christ is in you, the Spirit makes you alive because of righteousness (because you have been made right with God). <input type="checkbox"/> The Spirit gives life to their mortal bodies.	
Specific Questions		
In verse 9, how did Paul describe Christians?	They are not in the flesh but in the Spirit. (Paul described the conflict between the flesh and the Spirit.)	
How do you understand the phrase in your language for “in the flesh”?	It means living according to the sinful human nature. This sinful human nature is opposed to God.	
How do you understand the phrase in your language for “in the Spirit”?	This means to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit lives in obedience to God.	
What did Paul say is true of anyone who does not have the Spirit?	He is not a believer and he does not belong to Christ.	
What did he say the Spirit would do for believers?	He will give life to their mortal bodies.	

Romans 8:9-11 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Follow-up (Use if there is a misunderstanding concerning a specific question.)		
<p>Example follow-up questions:</p> <p>How would you use these words/phrases “in the flesh” or “in the Spirit, in everyday language?</p> <p>Are there other words/phrases you would use to mean “in the flesh” or “in the sinful nature”; or “in the Spirit” or “controlled by the Spirit” and express those words/phrases in your everyday language? [describe the meaning that the text should communicate]</p>	<p>If possible, determine whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The word or phrase was not translated accurately • There is something else in the passage that is confusing the reader • The translation is correct, but the reader does not understand the term or concept 	