



BIBLE TRANSLATION REVIEW GUIDE

ABSTRACT

An initial review of Bible Translation practices and effectiveness

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November 2017



ACCELERATING
BIBLE
TRANSLATION

Doctrine: Scripture— Divinely Inspired	2
Positive Statement:	2
2 Timothy 3:14-17	3
Hebrews 4:12	5
2 Peter 1:20-21	7
Doctrine: Missions	8
Positive Statement:	8
Matthew 28:18-20	9
Acts 1:8	11
Romans 10:13-15	13
Doctrine: The Christian Family	14
Positive Statement:	15
Ephesians 5:21-33	16
Ephesians 6:1-4	19
1 Timothy 5:1-4	21

Doctrine: Scripture— Divinely Inspired

Positive Statement:

Scripture, also called “The Bible,” is God’s Holy Word written down. It is a very important means by which God makes himself known.

For more than 1,600 years, the Holy Spirit inspired many human authors to write down God’s message accurately.

The Word of God is true in all it teaches. It is reliable for teaching people about God, his salvation through Jesus, and his ultimate plan for future glory. And, it is a guide to how Christians should behave and glorify God with their lives.

The purpose of Scripture is to bring about faith; to instruct, correct, reprove, and strengthen believers; to equip believers for good works; and to help believers understand who God is.

2 Timothy 3:14-17

Background: This passage is from a letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, the leader of the church in Ephesus. Paul had started the church and had mentored Timothy. Then he left Timothy to lead this church. In this letter, he gives Timothy additional instruction and encouragement for his position as leader of the church in Ephesus.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Broad Questions		
Summarize this passage.	<p>❑ Paul said that Timothy should continue to believe what he has already learned from the Scripture, as he was taught in his home.</p> <p>❑ Paul said that God's Word is divinely given and that it's useful in the believer's life for many things: teaching, rebuking, correcting, training and equipping for good works.</p>	
Specific Questions		
How did Paul describe Scripture in 3:16?	Scripture is inspired by God	
How did you understand the word or phrase in your language for "Scripture"?	The term "Scripture" means "writings." It refers to God's message that has been written down in the Bible.	
How did you understand the word or phrase in your language for "inspired by God"?	This means God produced the scripture through his Spirit by telling people what to write.	
What did Paul say that the Scripture is useful for?	Scripture is useful in the believer's life for many things: teaching, rebuking, correct, training and equipping for good works.	

2 Timothy 3:14-17 (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 this word/phrase in other everyday language?</p> <p>Is there a word/phrase in your language you would use to mean "inspired by God" [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 	

Hebrews 4:12

Background: This verse comes from the book of Hebrews. It is a letter written to the Jews who were believers in Christ. In chapter four, the author used stories from Scripture to teach his readers. Here, the author taught them about why they should obey what is written in Scripture.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Broad Questions		
Summarize this verse.	<input type="checkbox"/> God's word is alive and powerful. <input type="checkbox"/> God's word is like a double-edged sword that cuts straight through a person's soul and spirit. <input type="checkbox"/> God's Word judges thoughts, and attitudes inside a person's heart.	
Specific Questions		
What did the author compare God's Word to?	A sword	
How did you understand the word or phrase in your language for "God's Word"?	This is God's message that has been written in the Bible.	
What are some of the same qualities that are shared between God's word and a sword?	Both are sharp. Each can divide, cut, separate things that are alike. God's word divides the soul from the spirit, and cuts like a sword, cutting between joints from marrow.	
By comparing it to a sword, what is the author saying about God's word?	God's word reveals the thoughts and intentions of the heart.	

Hebrews 4:12 (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>Is there a word/phrase in your language you would use to mean "God's word" [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 	

2 Peter 1:20-21

Background: This passage was written by the apostle Peter. Here, he wrote about how prophecy was created, and the Holy Spirit's work in prophecy.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Broad Questions		
Summarize this passage.	<input type="checkbox"/> No prophecy came from man. <input type="checkbox"/> Men spoke prophecy from God as the Holy Spirit guided them.	
Specific Questions		
Who gave the prophets their message?	Guided by the Holy Spirit, they spoke from God.	
What do you think Peter is teaching believers about prophecy by saying that it comes from God?	Peter is teaching that prophecy is true and believers should pay attention to it.	
How did you understand the word or phrase in your language for "prophecy"?	Prophecy is the message given to those whom God chooses to proclaim or interpret his message. These messages were written down to be read, or proclaimed so people can hear them.	
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 "prophecy" in everyday language?</p> <p>Is there a word/phrase in your language you would use to mean "prophecy" [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 	

Doctrine: Missions

Positive Statement:

Christ has commanded all believers to tell others about the Gospel and to make disciples. God's message is meant to be heard in all places in all the world.

Matthew 28:18-20

Background: The events in this passage take place after Jesus had died and come back to life. This is Jesus' last command to his disciples in the Gospel of Matthew.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Broad Questions		
Summarize this passage.	<input type="checkbox"/> Jesus told his disciples all authority in heaven and earth was given to him. <input type="checkbox"/> He told them to go make disciples of all nations. <input type="checkbox"/> They should baptize people in the name of Father, Son, Holy Spirit. <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus said to the disciples that they should teach others to obey his commands. <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus said "I am with you always, even to the end of age."	
Specific Questions		
In verse 18, what has been given to Jesus?	All authority in heaven and earth	
Since Jesus has all authority in heaven and earth, believers should do what? [v. 19]	Go and make disciples in all the nations. And they should baptize them into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.	
What do you think it means to "make disciples"?	It means to teach people and to help people believe in and obey Jesus.	
How do you understand the phrase in your language for "into the name of"?	"Into the name of" means to do something according to the authority of another. Disciples are to baptize people by the authority of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.	
In verse 20, Jesus told the disciples to do what?	Teach the people of the nations to obey what Jesus said.	

Matthew 28:18-20 (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 the name of” in everyday language?</p> <p>Is there a word/phrase in your language you would use to mean “in the name of” [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 	

Acts 1:8

Background: This account is from Luke's second book. The events in this passage took place after Jesus had died and come back to life. In this passage Jesus spoke his last message to his disciples before he went back to heaven.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Broad Questions		
Summarize this verse.	<input type="checkbox"/> Jesus said to the disciples that they would receive power from the Holy Spirit. <input type="checkbox"/> The disciples will be Jesus' witnesses in Jerusalem, all Judea and Samaria, and to ends of the earth.	
Specific Questions		
What did Jesus say his disciples would receive?	Power	
When would they receive power?	When the Holy Spirit comes upon them.	
After the Holy Spirit comes upon the disciples what will they be for Jesus?	They will be his witness.	
How do you understand the phrase in your language for "witness"?	The term "witness" refers to a person who has personally experienced something that happened. Usually a witness is also someone who testifies about what they know is true.	
Where will the disciples be witnesses for Jesus?	In Jerusalem, all of Judea and Samaria, and the whole world.	

Acts 1:8 (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 “witness” in everyday language?</p> <p>Is there a word/phrase in your language you would use to mean “witness” [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 10:13-15

Background: This passage is from a letter that Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome. Here, Paul had been writing about the nation of Israel, and he stated that the Jews can also be saved if they believe in Jesus.

Reviewer: This passage has several rhetorical questions. Some languages may translate these questions as statements. It may be helpful to determine before the review whether your translation has rhetorical questions or statements.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Broad Questions		
Summarize this passage.	<input type="checkbox"/> Everyone who calls on the Lord will be saved. <input type="checkbox"/> To call on him they must believe. <input type="checkbox"/> To believe they must hear. <input type="checkbox"/> To hear there must be a preacher. <input type="checkbox"/> For people to preach, they must be sent. <input type="checkbox"/> "How beautiful are the feet of those who proclaim glad tidings of good things."	
Specific Questions		
According to verse 13, who will be saved?	Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord.	
How do you understand the phrase in your language for "call on the name of the Lord"?	This phrase means to ask the Lord for help. Here it means for a person to ask the Lord to save him and forgive his sins.	
In the first part of verse 14, what did Paul say must happen before they can call on the name of the Lord?	They must believe in the Lord.	
In the second part of verse 14 what must happen before they can believe?	They must hear about the Lord.	

Romans 10:13-15 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
In the last part of verse 14 what must happen before they hear about the Lord?	There must be a preacher to tell them about the Lord.	
In the first part of verse 15, what must happen before a person can preach about the Lord?	Someone must send the preacher to go and tell others about the Lord.	
At the end of verse 15 Paul quoted from the Old Testament. What did Paul say?	How beautiful are the feet of those who proclaim glad tidings of good things.	
How do you understand the phrase in your language for “are beautiful are the feet”?	The phrase means that the person who proclaims good tidings is wonderful.	
Follow-up (Use if there is a misunderstanding concerning a specific question.)		
<p>Example follow-up questions:</p> <p>How would you use these phrases, “call upon the name of the Lord” or “how beautiful are the feet” in language?</p> <p>Is there a word/phrase in your language you would use to mean “call upon the name of the Lord” or “how beautiful are the feet” [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 	

Doctrine: The Christian Family

Positive Statement:

God designed the family to serve and glorify him. Husbands and wives are to love and respect each other. Parents are to love and discipline their children. Children are to obey their parents.

Ephesians 5:21-33

Background: This is taken from Paul's letter to the believers in Ephesus. Here Paul taught Christians how they should behave towards each other within their families.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Broad Questions		
Summarize what Paul said in 5:21-24.	<input type="checkbox"/> Christians are to submit to one another in honor to Christ. <input type="checkbox"/> Wives are to submit to their husbands as to the Lord. <input type="checkbox"/> Husbands are the head of their wives as Christ is head of the Church. (Husbands have authority over the wives as Christ has authority over the Church.)	
Specific Questions		
In verse 21, what did Paul tell Christians to do?	Paul told them to submit to one another in reverence to Christ.	
<p>How do you understand the phrase in your language for "submit"?</p> <p>Does your word/phrase for "submit" mean the same thing in 5:22 as it does in 5:21? (Ensure the same word or phrase is used in both verses.)</p>	<p>It means one person is willing to do what the other person wants them to do.</p> <p>If the same word/phrase is not used both in 5:21 and 5:22, go to the follow-up section before proceeding to the next questions. Try to determine what the different words mean in their context.</p>	
In verse 22 what does Paul command wives to do?	Submit to their husbands, as to the Lord.	
In verse 23, what did Paul say is the reason that wives should submit to their husbands?	For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church.	

Ephesians 5:21-33 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
How do you understand the phrase in your language for “head of”?	The phrase “head of” means to have authority over someone. The husband is the leader of the wife just as Jesus is the leader of the Church.	
Broad Questions		
Summarize what Paul said in 5:25-33.	<input type="checkbox"/> Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loves the Church. <input type="checkbox"/> Christ gave himself to make the Church pure and holy. <input type="checkbox"/> Husbands should love their wives as they love their own bodies. <input type="checkbox"/> Man will leave his parents and be joined to his wife; they will become one flesh. <input type="checkbox"/> Hidden truth: Paul is speaking about Christ and the church.	
Specific Questions		
In verse 25 what did Paul command husbands to do?	Husbands must love their wives as Christ loved the church.	
In verses 26-27 what did Paul say that Christ did for the church?	Jesus died for the church to make it holy so that the church could belong to him.	
In verse 28 how did Paul say husbands should love their wives?	As a husband loves his own body, he should love his wife.	
In verse 29 how did Paul describe the way a person treats his own body with how Christ treats the church?	A person nourishes his body and treats it with care, just as Christ treats the church.	
In verse 31 what did Paul say a man would do?	He would leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.	

Ephesians 5:21-33 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
How do you understand the phrase in your language for “joined to his wife” and “two will become one flesh”?	In marriage the husband and wife become like they are one body.	
In verse 33, what is Paul’s command to husbands and wives?	Each of you also must love his own wife as himself, and the wife must respect her husband.	
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, “joined to his wife,” or “the two become one flesh” in everyday language?</p> <p>Are there words/phrases like “joined to his wife,” or “the two become one flesh” in 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 	

Ephesians 6:1-4

Background: This passage is taken from Paul's letter to the believers in Ephesus. In chapter 5 Paul told the Ephesians how they should behave in relationships. In 6:1 Paul wrote about the duties of parents and the responsibility of children.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Broad Questions		
Summarize this passage.	<input type="checkbox"/> Children must obey their parents. <input type="checkbox"/> "Honor your father and mother so that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." <input type="checkbox"/> Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger. <input type="checkbox"/> Fathers should discipline and instruct their children in the Lord.	
Specific Questions		
In verse 1 what did Paul say concerning children?	They should obey their parents in the Lord.	
In verse 2 Paul quoted one of the ten commandments. What did it say concerning children?	Children should honor their mother and father.	
In verse 3, what did the commandment promise to children who "honor their mother and father"?	They will be happy and live long on the earth.	
In verse 4, what did Paul say concerning fathers?	They should not provoke their children to anger. They should discipline them and teach them about the Lord.	

Ephesians 6:1-4 (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 “to honor your mother and father” in everyday language?</p> <p>Is there a word/phrase in your language that means to “honor your mother and father” [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 	

1 Timothy 5:1-4

Background: Paul wrote this letter to Timothy to encourage him and to instruct him how to be a leader in the local church. In chapter 5, Paul told Timothy about how he should treat other Christians in the church.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Broad Questions		
Summarize this passage.	<input type="checkbox"/> Paul told Timothy to not rebuke an older man but encourage him like a father. <input type="checkbox"/> Timothy should speak to younger men like brothers. <input type="checkbox"/> Timothy should speak to older women like mothers and younger women like sisters in all purity. <input type="checkbox"/> Timothy should honor widows. <input type="checkbox"/> If a widow has children or grandchildren then her family should take care of her.	
Specific Questions		
How should Timothy treat older men?	He should not rebuke them but encourage them like they were his father.	
How should Timothy treat younger men?	He should speak to them as if they were his brothers.	
How should Timothy treat older women and younger women?	He should speak to older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters in all purity.	
How should Timothy treat widows that do not have children or grandchildren?	He should honor these widows.	
How should Timothy treat a widow who has children or grandchildren?	The children and grandchildren should honor the widow and take care of her.	

1 Timothy 5:1-4 (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 everyday language?</p> <p>Is there a word/phrase in your language you would use to mean [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 	