

Chapter 20: Scripture Engagement

Objective: Participants will understand how the Application Guide can be used to enhance Scripture engagement. They will develop a plan for encouraging Scripture use in their community. They will know how to use the Biblical Impact Questionnaire to develop Community Impact stories.

Core Concepts:

- The church will need to plan ways to engage the community in using the newly translated Scripture.
- WA provides Reviewers' Guides and Application Guides for Doctrines to assist the church in using Scripture in the community.
- The Bible will bring change in a community; the Biblical Impact Questionnaire helps the church identify these positive changes.

And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day. Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments before the LORD our God, as He has commanded us (Deut. 6:24-25). Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock (Matt. 7:24-25).

Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith (1 Tim. 1:5).

Intro:

How will the newly translated Scripture be used in the heart language community? The local church should plan to engage the community in using the translation.

Think about how you currently use your Bible. How often do you read it? What are some ways that you study it? It is possible that some people who do not have Scripture in their heart language have not thought of reading it for themselves or studying it together in groups. They have not had that opportunity.

- **How is Scripture already being used in your community?**
- **What are some ways that Scripture was used in the Bible itself?**
 - Group teaching (Nehemiah 8:1-8)

Time: 60 minutes

Workbook p. 78

Materials:

- ✓ White board
- ✓ Slide Deck: T3.Slides_20_ScriptureEngagement
- ✓ Application Guide chapters of the Reviewers' Guide online, or pp. 159-174 (choose one or more topic to copy and hand out).
- ✓ Copies of the Biblical Impact Questionnaire (pp. 175-76)
- ✓ Bible with place markers

Teacher's Notes:



Scripture Engagement

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This will often mean Scripture in a second language.

- Individual teaching (Philemon addressed to one person)
- Singing (Exodus 15, a song of praise, Psalms)
- Training, correction (2 Timothy 3:16,17)

When Scripture is used in a community, there are often wonderful changes that happen as a result.

Wycliffe Associates has prepared some guides to help the community study the newly translated Scripture. These guides can also be used to invite feedback for further revision, where needed.

Application Guides

The Reviewer's Guide for checking the Scripture with the community also has several sections called the Application Guides. They cover all the same passages as the Reviewers' Guide, asking application questions related to the message of those passages.

The Application Guides are designed to be used in a small group with a qualified leader to guide the discussion.

Exercise: Using the Application Guides

Let's practice using an Application Guide as if we are hearing the Bible in our mother tongue for the first time. These are the people these studies were designed for. Your church can encourage them to take time to enjoy thinking about God's Word together. When possible, a person in the group should take notes on the answers, especially where there is confusion. This feedback can then be shared with the translation team.

Biblical Impact Questionnaire

The Bible makes certain claims for itself and the work that it will accomplish. The Biblical Impact Questionnaire is a tool to measure the impact that the newly translated Scripture is having in the community.

Notes:

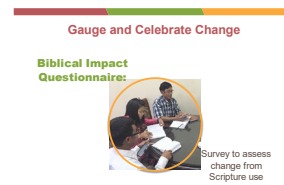


If possible, demonstrate online how to access the Application Guides.



The Application Guides themselves include instructions.

Select a topic from the Application Guides for Doctrines, then read the passage and use the questions together as a demonstration.



Hand out the Biblical Impact Questionnaire (pp. 175-76) and discuss how it can be used. If you have time, demonstrate with a few of the questions.

Discuss:

- How might your community use the new translation?
- Would weekly or monthly small group meetings work?
- Will the pastors in your community use the Scripture for teaching?
- What are ways you might use the Scripture with those outside your own church?
- How can you include unbelievers and skeptics?

Notes:

If time allows, read Acts 8:27-38 and discuss how this passage demonstrates Scripture engagement.

Include Others in Scripture Use

Read
Acts 8:27-38

Apply this to plans for
Scripture in community



Acts 8:27-38

So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, **28** was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. **29** Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot." **30** So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" **31** And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. **32** The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth."

33 In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth."

34 So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" **35** Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. **36** Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" **37** [Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may."

And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

Confirm:

Participants understand that community Scripture engagement is important for the spread of the Gospel and the spiritual growth of the church. They understand the necessity of a plan to share their work with their communities.