

Chapter 5: Open Copyright License

You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another (Lev. 19:11).

YOUR NOTES:

Copyright versus Creative Commons

How to make your Bible translation available, free to everyone.

- **Why do you want to translate the Bible?**
- **What do you need to accomplish these goals?**

Impact Story:

A Mayan Native Mexican language group approached us and asked us to help them update a previously published Bible in their heart language.

We talked to the publisher and were told “no”; we couldn't use the Bible as a source text since the publisher owns the copyright on it. Instead, we're required to start the translation from an open copyright, non-all rights reserved source.

Copyright: the legal license that shows ownership of a document or work of art.

If you own a copyright, you have the legal right to keep others from...

- Making copies
- Printing
- Distributing

- Making changes
- Translating
- Posting online, even on social media
- Digital sharing

To use a copyrighted Bible: you must get legal permission in writing, because someone else owns it.

This can be difficult, expensive, or occasionally impossible to obtain.

Copyright keeps us from...

- Making the translation freely accessible
- Updating the translation when needed
- Legally using a translation as a source text

Copyright is not bad. It protects writers and artists.

BUT, at WA, we don't believe that a copyright belongs on the Word of God.

Instead, WA uses Creative Commons Licensing, also known as CC BY-SA.

CC stands for _____

It's an organization that helps people license their work in a way that gives permission to anyone to legally copy, change, and distribute the work.

YOUR NOTES:

BY stands for _____. It means that people may distribute or adapt the work if they give credit to the creator of the work.

“You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.” -- from Creative Commons website.

SA stands for _____

_____. This means that when you or others remake and share something based on an original work, they must use the same kind of license for the new work. This gives the same permission to others to copy, adapt, and share your work.

Everyone who works on the translation team must give written permission to use and share their contribution to the translation.

This shows that you can legally publish their work. It also guarantees that your language group will always have access to print and revise as needed.

- **Why do you think WA uses Creative Commons instead of Copyright?**

YOUR NOTES:

Matthew 10:8b

Wycliffe Associates wants to see source text easily available, used legally, and translations easily shared and easily revised and reprinted by future generations.

In summary, under CC BY-SA,

_____ may copy, distribute, translate, or adapt the material without asking permission or paying fees.

At the same time, CC BY-SA also prevents others from taking the work and copying it as their own.

YOUR NOTES:

So what does all this mean to you and your team?

As leaders of the translation project, you'll need to

1. Be sure that everyone who works on the translation understands that they're giving permission to anyone who wants to use and share their work.
2. EVERYONE who works on the translation must show their understanding by signing the online document here: <https://cobt.ck.page/ccbysa> or a physical document (such as the one provided in the Trainer Guide).
3. Any time you print even a portion of the Bible, you must include copyright information. Wycliffe Associates will help you with the exact words you need to include.

Before beginning translation work, you must receive written permission from all the translators to use their work in your published Bible. If you choose to use physical signatures instead of the link above, you will need to keep track of these signatures. We will also have you sign this form during this training. For simplicity, we have combined the agreements to the Statement of Faith and the Creative Commons license into one form.

YOUR NOTES:

Review of Core Concepts:

- Copyright is designed to protect writers and artists, but when used on Bibles, it can prevent people from getting the Word of God.
- Wycliffe Associates wants our church partners to own their translations (to always be able to access, download, copy, print, update, and/or translate their Bible).
- To ensure local church ownership, we use open licensing, called Creative Commons.

Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International Human-Readable Summary

The Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License, available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0> and <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/legalcode> , is included here in the human-readable summary.

Human-readable summary of the Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 License

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