

Chapter 5: Open Copyright License

Objective: *The participants will understand the purposes and benefits of open copyright licensing. They will commit to releasing their work with a CC BY-SA license.*

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.

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

Intro:

We're going to talk about how we make sure Bible translations are available, free to everyone. We'll talk about the difference between copyright and the license we use, called Creative Commons.

Time: 60 minutes

Materials:

- ✓ Slide Deck: T3. Slides_05_Open. Copyright_TS02
- ✓ White board
- ✓ Copies of the Legal and Doctrinal Statement, p. 34
- ✓ Bible with place markers

Teacher's Notes:



Open
Copyright
License
CC BY-SA

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

All Scripture is taken from the New King James Version®. ©
1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights
reserved.

Ask:

- **Why do you want to translate the Bible?**

- **What do you need to accomplish these goals?**

- **Is the Bible that you currently use copyrighted?**

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.

Notes:

Invite a participant to the front to write responses on the whiteboard.

Possible responses:

- To have the Word in their heart language.
- To understand and apply it.
- For growth, evangelism, and discipleship.
- For the glory of God.

Possible responses:

- Source text
- Bilingual translators
- A way to distribute the translation.
- A plan to improve the translation.

Thank and have the volunteer at the whiteboard rejoin the group.

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.

Ask:

- **What do you know about copyright?**

Copyright shows legal 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

Anyone who wants to use a copyrighted Bible must get permission in writing to use what someone else owns. This can be difficult, expensive, and sometimes impossible to obtain.

Copyright keeps us and you from...

- Making the translation accessible to everyone
- Updating the translation when needed

Notes:



- Legally using a translation as a source text

Copyright is not bad. It protects writers and artists. But WA doesn't believe that a copyright belongs on the Word of God. Instead, WA uses Creative Commons Licensing, also known as CC BY-SA.

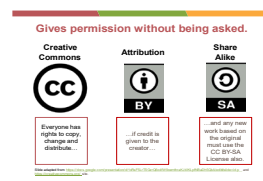
CC stands for Creative Commons. CC is the organization that helps people license their work which gives permission to anyone to legally copy, change, and distribute it.

BY stands for attribution. It means 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 Share Alike. This means when you or others remake and share something based on an original work, the same kind of license must be used for the new work. This gives permission to others to copy, adapt, and share your work.

Notes:



For reference only to answer any specific questions:

WA provides source text Unlocked Literal Bible (English is an adaptation of 1901 ASV now in public domain) under this license. Most gateway language versions are under this license. [A few, e.g., French, Burmese, are public domain texts]

Anyone can use the ULB as a source text, without permission or fee.

Everyone who works on the translation team must give permission to use and share their work to the translation. This shows that you can legally publish it. It also guarantees that your language group will always have access to print and revise as needed.

Ask:

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

Notes:

You don't have to partner with WA, or use MAST—it's online and available if terms of the license are followed.

Translations (or other adaptations) based on ULB must be released under the same license, and the team of translators/church/language community will hold the CC copyright.

If the team is concerned that a cult group might modify their translation if they don't copyright it, point out that a copyright doesn't prevent criminal activity. It simply gives the owner the right to take violators to court.



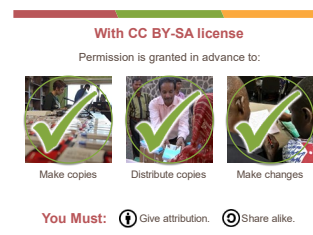
Jesus told His disciples to “freely give” as they had “freely received” (Matthew 10:8b NIV). This licensing allows us to model that command of Christ.

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, anyone 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.

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 (page 21).
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 open license into one form.

Teach Back:

- Can you translate a work that is copyrighted?
 - If so, what steps must be taken before starting the translation?
- Who will own your translation?
- What can people do with the translated work?
 - How might this be good?

Notes:

If using the physical form, make copies of the Legal and Doctrinal Statement on p. 34 before teaching this chapter.

The summary of the license is included on pp. 35-36, (and p.185 if copies are needed) and in the Workbook on p. 26. A complete Creative Commons license can be found on pp. 186-194 if participants request copies. For other languages, see <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>

- What might be some concerns?
- What could happen if a translation does not have a CC BY-SA license?

Notes:

Confirm: Participants should understand that their work will need to be licensed under CC BA-SA:

- To allow the best accessibility to the translation.
- To protect their continued ownership of their work.

Legal and Doctrinal Statement

(If multiple copies are needed, label pages after printing): **Page ____ of ____**
Completion of this form verifies the release of your work under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license. It also affirms the alignment of the translation with the Wycliffe Associates' Statement of Faith. Please return the completed and signed form to Wycliffe Associates.

I, the undersigned, assert that the content of:

_____ (**"the Works"**)
(name and language of the resource)

is in agreement with the Wycliffe Associates **Statement of Faith** found at <https://bibleineverylanguage.org/statement-of-faith> or within BTT Writer. I hereby release and license my contributions to the Works for third party use pursuant to the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-SA 4.0). Attribution pursuant to the License is to be made using my name, username, or a pseudonym as specified below. I warrant that to the best of my knowledge, this release and license of the Works pursuant to the terms of the License does not violate the rights of any third party.

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Note: The full license is available on pp. 186-194 of this Guide, or in multiple languages at

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/list.en#international-40>