# Video Script Chapter 11: Divine Familial Terms

# Video 11.1

**We are going to talk about a doctrinal belief called Divine Familial Terms.**

This is a hard phrase. This doctrinal belief is about the **terms *Father* and *Son* when used for God and Jesus**. It is related to the doctrine of the Trinity—God is one and exists in three roles. This is important to talk about because the Bible uses different titles and names for each of the three persons of God.

# Video 11.2

**Do you think God intended to communicate specific truths about who He is through the names He uses in the Scriptures?**

**We believe that since the Bible is God's Word, we should use the exact names He uses when talking about Himself.** God defines Himself as Father and Jesus as His Son. And we do not have the right to change that.

Translating these terms clearly and faithfully will preserve the meaning of Scripture.

Some people have translated these terms differently to avoid offending non-believers in their region. Instead of calling Jesus God's Son, they may call Him God's chosen one, or sent one, or beloved one. Instead of calling God Father, they may use Most High or Holy One.

# Video 11.3

**Wycliffe Associates (WA) commits to support only Bible translations that use accurate and literal common language terms for "Father" and "Son" when referring to God and Jesus Christ. This is a conviction we have committed to.** The issue of Divine Familial Terms came up in translation work done in a primarily Muslim area. Our conviction on this challenging issue is a response to this situation.

In some Muslim environments, translators have changed these names (as well as making other changes to the text) to make the text more culturally acceptable to Muslims. Their desire is to be **invitational to Muslims** in the hopes that many would turn to the Lord for salvation.

Unfortunately, these changes **significantly changed the meaning of the text**.  We feel this is an example of Paul's contrast between human wisdom and wisdom of the Spirit (1 Cor. 2:13).

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# <u>Video 11.4</u>

**WA has created a resource to help translators confirm their correct use of "Father" and "Son."** This resource is designed as a useful aid; translators are not required to complete it and submit it to WA. But we do strongly recommend they use it if any question about the accuracy of these terms arises.

This resource is in the form of four Reviewer's Guides. They are accessible on bibleineverylanguage.org.
  - o God the Father (NT)
  - o Jesus the Son (NT)
  - o God the Father (OT)
  - o Jesus the Son (OT)

Go to the "Translations" tab and select your preferred language. Under the "Reviewers' Guide" heading, click "Topics".

Select "God the Father Terms" or "Son of God Terms". Documents without "(Old Testament)" in the title are for the New Testament.

Let's look at one of the guides together as an example.

**Notice the different meanings of the word "father" in the Bible.**
  - Biological, male parent
  - Ancestor
  - Someone older
  - God the Father of the Israelites
  - God the Father of a person

**Take a moment to think about the ways of using *father* in your language.**

When referring to God as "God the Father," it is important that translators use the same word for "father" as they do when referring to a biological, male parent… The word "father" means something different in each case; that is, God did not father Jesus or his people in the way that a human male fathers a child. However, God has chosen to use the word "father" to reveal himself and his character. It is the responsibility of Christian preachers and teachers to explain to their churches the meaning of "God the Father."
Remember, the term "father" may be translated differently in other contexts, but when this term is used for God, it must be the common term for a biological father.

Look at the Exercise in your Workbook on pages 48-51.
The God the Father Terms document has a table for checking terms.

This table has every instance in the New Testament that refers to God as "Father." (Uses of the word "father" in the Bible for anyone other than God are not included in the chart.)

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- The first column has the verse reference, (and a note on the translation if there was difficulty).
- The second column shows the verse in Greek, with the word for "Father" or "God the Father" in bold.
- The third column shows the phrase in the Unlocked Literal Bible (ULB).
- In the fourth column, you will write the word for "Father" used in that verse in the translation you are reviewing.
- The fifth column is for comments and questions.

Page 5 of "God the Father Terms" Reviewers' Guide lists questions you should ask yourself about each verse when reviewing a translation. If you have any doubts or concerns at all, make notes in the fifth column. Always label your notes with the reference of the verse being discussed.