

Chapter 6: Release Early, Revise Often

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so. Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give it," when you have it with you (Prov. 3:27-28).

When is a translation ready to be shared with the community?

We encourage our partners to _____ early and _____ often.

No translation will ever be perfect!

- **So, when should a translation be shared with the language community waiting for it?**

Impact Story:

Martin Luther was one of the first people to translate the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into a common language: his language was German. He published portions of his German translation and looked for feedback from the community to improve his next publication of it.

Today, translations usually have small groups of people who review and offer updates to the translation. These groups decide when to release revised editions.

The idea of releasing the translation early and revising it often means:

Translators release their translation when they believe they have made it the best they can at the time. You don't need to wait until you've finished a whole book of the Bible.

Ecclesiastes 11:2 and 4.

- **Sometime translators are uncomfortable with releasing early. Why?**
- **What are some concerns you have?**

YOUR NOTES:

- **How could you address these concerns?**

Revision requires feedback!

As the translation is used, the translators will get feedback for corrections, improvements, and updates.

Remember: language changes over time, making revisions necessary.

- **What kinds of changes might need to be made?**
- **How could the translation team and the Church encourage the language community to give feedback?**

Include the whole church!

If there are different denominations within the language group, the translation team should try to include all of them who are willing to participate. You may want to form a group of people from each denomination to receive feedback and determine what revisions should be made, and how often.

- **What could happen if the team does not release early?**

YOUR NOTES:

Review of Core Concepts:

- Bible translations will never be perfect, but they can be made clearer by inviting community feedback.
- It is best when the translation team releases portions of the translation, as they are finished, for the entire community to use.
- Feedback from the community allows the translation team to make corrections and improvements before the official publication.
- Bible translations also need continual revision and updates as languages change. The local church should plan and oversee these periodic revisions.