

# Chapter 18: Community Acceptance

**Objective:** Participants will identify the needs within their cultural context for Scripture to be acceptable to the average user.

**Core Concepts:**

- The finished Bible translation should be published in a format and style that is acceptable to the language community.

So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who could hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month. Then he read from it in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday... And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. Then all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground (Neh. 8:2-3a, 5-6).

**Intro:**

**Each language community has unique cultural expectations for sacred teachings.** This is important to keep in mind when planning to share the completed Scripture translation.

**We'll identify what makes a Bible translation acceptable to your language community and make a plan to meet that expectation.**

A **Community Acceptance Plan** is one of the guides you will have your translation team make. As the **Quality Assessment Guide** helps the team plan for the content to be of good quality, and a **Scripture Accessibility Plan** gives believers exposure to God's Word, a **Community Acceptance Plan** helps make the Bible acceptable for use in the local church.

1 Corinthians 9:22 tells us that Paul became all things to all people so that the way he did things would not be a hindrance to the truth.

In the same way, we can plan wisely so that the way the translation is done or the finished product does not limit people's willingness to use it.

**Time:** 30 min. plus  
60 min. for exercises.

**Workbook p. 69**

**Materials:**

- ✓ White board
- ✓ Bible with place markers
- ✓ Slide Deck T3.Slides\_18\_Community.Acceptance

**Teacher's Notes:**



Scripture Accessibility is covered in Chapter 19.

1 Corinthians 9:22

to the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

## Discuss:

- What makes a Bible translation acceptable to your language community?
- What are some cultural and social challenges that may affect the translation effort of the local church?
- What suggestions do you have for overcoming the challenges you have identified?

## Exercise: Community Acceptance (Participant Workbook pp.70-71)

Let's start by discussing and listing the characteristics that need to be present for your translation to be acceptable in your culture.

- Are there expectations in your culture about how sacred writings should be formatted, printed, and bound?

Part 1: Take some time to discuss the questions on Workbook pp. 70 as a group and take notes about steps needed for your translation to be accepted in your community. Then, for Part 2, use the chart on p. 71 to list the necessary steps.

## Notes:



*If you have not already addressed Cultural and Social Considerations, do so briefly here.*

### *Possible challenges include:*

- It may be difficult for the older generation to accept (or use) an electronic Bible.
- Some may think passages printed on regular printer paper are not an appropriate presentation for God's Word.
- People might not want hard copies if they fear persecution.
- Some might not accept a translation if they do not trust those who do or promote it.

*Extra copies of the Exercise can be made from TG pp. 153-154 if needed.*

*Invite a volunteer to make a list of answers on the white board as participants discuss.*

They do not need to come up with 10 characteristics or steps. It may only take 4 or 5.

If needed, ask them to define or explain any steps they listed that seem unclear.

## Notes:

Luke 14:28-29

For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—<sup>28</sup>lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him,

When leading a workshop, you will guide leaders and translators in creating a plan for Community Acceptance. **This will be the plan their team members refer to throughout the translation and formatting process.**

You will want to confirm with your translation team that the Community Acceptance Plan is clear and agreeable to each member of the team.

- **What resources can you suggest to help address the practical challenges and action steps you've discussed?**

## Confirm:

The team has a plan (or is prepared to walk their translation team through making a plan) to translate and release Scripture in an acceptable manner and format. The Community Acceptance Plan should be made available for continued reference.