Chapter 16: Completion Timeline Strategies

_Objective__: Participants will have a plan for completing their Scripture and an awareness of the challenges they may face in completing their plan_

Core Concepts:
- Project leaders should plan from the beginning to finish well.
- There will be challenges, but planning ahead and assessing community resources to face those challenges can keep teams from getting discouraged.
- The leadership team is responsible for motivating and keeping translators accountable.

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 – lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, "This man began to build and was not able to finish" (Luke 14:28-30).

Time: 30-45 min.
Materials:
✓ _White board_
✓ _Bible with place markers_
✓ _Slide Deck T3.Slides_16_ Completion. Timeline._

Intro:
This session is about planning your project with the end in mind. Let's talk about how you can start planning now to finish well.

Teacher's Notes:
Most translation teams plan to finish the NT first. This chapter will help them think about a timeline. We like to encourage every team to plan to finish the whole Bible. The ideas in this chapter can be applied to OT projects as well.

Completion Timeline Strategies

Discuss:

Listen to Luke 14:28-30.

o **How might this passage apply to Bible translation?**

What Jesus taught here about counting the cost is a challenge translators should consider as they start their translation. **Planning for completion from the beginning is necessary.**

o **What things should be considered as translators develop a plan?**

o **As you think of planning to finish well, what does *finish* mean to you?**

o **What are some issues you might face?**

o **What resources do you have in your community to help manage the challenges you might face?**

Notes:

Completion Timeline Strategies

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

Invite a participant to Read Luke 14:28–30 in any language.

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Consider

Some common issues are:
o losing translators
o lost data
o broken technology

Possible resources include:
o local church helping to recruit and train new translators
o local church as a meeting place for group checking
o local church identifying someone with Tech ability who can manage data

Completion Timeline Strategies

One important part of planning is setting a timeline of goals.
The New Testament has about 8,000 verses. There are 52 weeks in a year. Therefore, the NT could be completely drafted in 1 year with 6 translators drafting about 25 verses per week.
The Old Testament has about 23,200 verses. It can be drafted in 3 years with 6 translators drafting about 25 verses per week.

When you train participants of a new translation project, you will need to have a conversation with them (or their leaders) similar to the following:

- **What kind of goal would you like to set for your completion of the NT (or OT)?**
- **How much do you think you could draft in a week?**
- **How many translators do you need?**
- **Will you need to recruit more?**
- **How will you get together to do the checking steps?**
- **Could you plan a weekly or monthly group checking?**
- **Will you do checking together or online?**
- **How will you keep track of who is drafting and checking each portion and what work has been accomplished?**

Notes:

Setting Goals

New Testament: 7,957 verses
6 translators, 25 verses a week, 1 year

Old Testament: 23,145 verses
6 translators, 25 verses a week, 3 years

This chapter is designed to help leaders walk through a conversation with the translation team as they plan a translation. It's included here so that as we train leaders, we can alert them to the need for this kind of conversation.

Emphasize that we will always be available to them for questions.

o **What do you see as some of your challenges?**
o **What value do you see in making a goal?**

The leaders of the translation team will set goals for verse/chapter/book completion, as well as release of portions for community review.

One of the greatest responsibilities of the leadership team is keeping the translators motivated and accountable. Someone who is good at organization should keep track of what books or chapters are assigned to which translators, and which steps have been completed for each chapter. The team should choose a schedule for meeting to do checking steps, and have a goal for their final publication date.

Imagine the day when your translation will be posted here.

> *Notes:*
>
> In Community Accessibility we will talk about different ways they will share their translation.
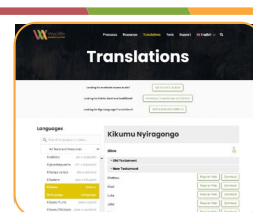
(Or, show a New Testament on bibleineverylanguage.org.)

Confirm: Participants have chosen to start out with a commitment to complete. They recognize challenges and realize the importance of making a goal for completion.