

Chapter 18: Community Acceptance

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).

YOUR NOTES:

Each language community has unique cultural expectations for sacred teachings.

A **Community Acceptance Plan** is one of the guides you will have your translation team make.

1 Corinthians 9:22

- **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?**

YOUR NOTES:

Community Acceptance Exercise: Part 1

Discuss the following questions. Having your translation team think through these questions will help your team plan for your community's acceptance of the translated scripture. (There is a table in Part 2 for you to record your plan.)

1. What are some current cultural and social challenges in your local church regarding scripture in your own language?

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

3. What leaders or groups of people need to be involved in the translation so that the community will accept the translation?

4. If your community uses a Bible in another language, what form of Bible do they use? (printed text, digital text, audio)

5. If your community uses written content in your language, what form is it in? (Are there printed texts, digital texts?)

6. How much do people use audio recordings for listening to the Bible or learning other things?

7. Will everyone be able to use the written text, or will some people need an audio Bible?

8. What type of finished product will the church want? (text, audio, app, or a combination)

Community Acceptance Exercise: Part 2:

Community Acceptance Plan

Based on your discussion above, make a plan for how you will make the scripture acceptable to your language community. Fill out the chart with action steps for the kind of Bible you will need.

Action Step	Who is Responsible?	Check when Completed

YOUR NOTES:

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 you've discussed?

Review of Core Concepts:

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