

## Chapter 11: Divine Familial Terms

For [our Lord Jesus Christ] received from God the Father honor and glory from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (2 Pet. 1:17).

When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matt. 3:16-17).

YOUR NOTES:

**Divine Familial Terms:** How the terms *Father* and *Son* are used for God and Jesus.

It is related to the doctrine of the Trinity—God is one and exists in three persons.

**What are the three terms (or names) the Bible uses for the three persons of God?**

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_

In the Bible, what other names or titles do we see for Jesus?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In the Bible, what other names or titles do we see for God?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In the Bible, what other names or titles do we see for the Holy Spirit?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Because the Bible is God's Word, we should use the exact names He uses when talking about Himself.**

Consider John 5:17-18; John 10:30-31, 33, 36; Hebrews 1:8; John 3:16.

At Wycliffe Associates (WA), we support only Bible translations that use **accurate** and **literal, common language** terms for "Father" and "Son" when referring to God and Jesus Christ.

Why do you think that translating "Father" and "Son" literally is so important?

- The Bible is \_\_\_\_\_ and we should translate it the way He communicated it.
- The doctrine of the \_\_\_\_\_ is affirmed.
- The gospel message is \_\_\_\_\_.

What are some of the ways the word "father" is used in the Bible?

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When referring to a human "father", these different uses are good. But when referring to God, the word for a **biological, male parent** should be used.

YOUR NOTES:

## Divine Familial Terms

The God the Father Terms resource has a chart for checking terms. Following is a sample (pages 5-7) of the Terms guide. The complete guide can be found online:

- through this link: Click [here](https://bibleineverylanguage.org/resources/)
- <https://bibleineverylanguage.org/resources/>
- Go to “Resources” tab.
- Scroll down and click “RG Reviewers’ Guide”.
- Click on the “Father and Son Terms Guides” folder.

This chart 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.)

### YOUR NOTES:

Verse	Verse in Greek/ Hebrew	Verse in English	In this column, you will write the word for “Father” used in the verse you are reviewing.	In this column, you will write any notes.
	the word for “Father” or “God the Father” is in <b>bold</b> .	the word for “Father” or “God the Father” is in <b>bold</b> .		

### Exercise—Guided Practice:

Part of the introduction of the God the Father Terms Reviewers’ Guide is copied on the next three pages of your workbook.

Workbook pp. 49-50 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 in question.

Using the Terms Table (p. 51), look up the first verse in any translation you choose.

- **What word is used for “Father” in that translation?**
- **Is it a common word?**
- **Does it accurately represent the relationship between God the Father and Jesus?**

**Translation teams should have these Guides available for reference throughout their entire translation process.**

## “God the Father” terms table

### How to use the terms table

This section has every instance in the New Testament that refers to God as “Father.” As reviewers read through their Bible, they may notice that there are verses with the word “father” that are not in this list. In those verses the word “father” has a different meaning than what is being reviewed here. The purpose of this review is to check the word “father” only when it refers to God.

The first column in the table includes the verse reference. In a few cases there is a note explaining a difficulty in the translation.

The second column includes the Greek text; the word for “Father” or “God the Father” is in bold letters. The purpose of including the Greek is to give a reference for those who can read Greek and to demonstrate that the decision of Wycliffe Associate to use the word “Father” is supported by the original language.

The third column includes the text from the ULB with the word “Father” or “God the Father” in bold letters. Usually the complete text of the verse is not included. The phrase that includes “Father” or “God the Father” is included. Sometimes there are ellipses (...) in the table “Father” or “God the Father” occurs more than once in a verse. If it is hard to understand the text included in the chart, refer to the source text used for the translation.

The fourth column is for recording how “Father” or “God the Father” was translated in each verse of the Bible you are reviewing.

The fifth column is for comments and questions. For each verse, ask the following questions. If the answer is “no” to any of them, write about it in the fifth column. Also, if there are questions or issues to discuss with the reviewers, write them in this column.

- In this verse, does the word used in your translation for “Father” normally refer to a literal, biological, male parent?
- In this verse, is this the same word for “Father” that was used in previous passages?

- If it is not the same word, does it also normally refer to a literal, biological, male parent?
- If your language has a way of showing that your word for “Father” refers to God (for example, in English the word “father” is capitalized when it refers to God), has this been done in this verse?
- If you fill this document out on a computer, and you want to write about a verse in the comment section, put your cursor in the comment section. Then hit the ENTER key on your keyboard until the cursor is next to the verse you want to write about. Also, write the verse reference with your comment.

## Sample Table

This sample table shows what a table may look like after it has been completed. It also shows what kinds of comments a reviewer may make and where those comments would be written.

Verse reference	Greek	English	Your language	Comments
Matthew 5:16	τὸν πατέρα ὑμῶν τὸν ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς	your <b>Father</b> who is in heaven	Dad	5:48 This word is different. Do we need it?  6:1 I do not think this is appropriate .
Matthew 5:45	τοῦ πατρὸς ὑμῶν τοῦ ἐν οὐρανοῖς	your <b>Father</b> who is in heaven	Dad	
Matthew 5:48	ὡς ὁ πατήρ ὑμῶν ὁ οὐράνιος τέλειός ἐστιν	as your heavenly <b>Father</b> is perfect	Papa	
Matthew 6:1	παρὰ τῷ πατρὶ ὑμῶν τῷ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς	from your <b>Father</b> who is in heaven	Pops	

Terms Table

Verse reference	Greek	English	Your language <sup>1</sup>	Comments
Matthew 5:16	τὸν <b>πατέρα</b> ὑμῶν τὸν ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς	your <b>Father</b> who is in heaven		
Matthew 5:45	τοῦ <b>πατρὸς</b> ὑμῶν τοῦ ἐν οὐρανοῖς	your <b>Father</b> who is in heaven		
Matthew 5:48	ὡς ὁ <b>πατήρ</b> ὑμῶν ὁ οὐράνιος τέλειός ἐστιν	as your heavenly <b>Father</b> is perfect		
Matthew 6:1	παρὰ τῷ <b>πατρὶ</b> ὑμῶν τῷ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς	from your <b>Father</b> who is in heaven		
Matthew 6:4	ὁ <b>πατήρ</b> σου ὁ βλέπων ἐν τῷ κρυπτῷ ἀποδώσει σοι	your <b>Father</b> who sees in secret will reward you		
Matthew 6:6	πρόσευξαι τῷ <b>πατρὶ</b> σου ... ὁ <b>πατήρ</b> σου	Shut the door and pray to your <b>Father</b> , who is in secret. Then your <b>Father</b> who sees in secret will reward you.		

**In order to have an accurate translation, the translation team must be committed to translating Divine Familial Terms accurately.**

In areas where these terms may be an issue, or if there is any question about these terms being translated faithfully, we encourage churches to choose a group of reviewers to complete the entire Father and Son charts.

- **What essential doctrines of Christianity are affected by how these terms are translated?**

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- **What challenges do you have with understanding Divine Familial Terms in your culture?**

YOUR NOTES:

### **Review of Core Concepts:**

- God intentionally referred to Himself as “Father” and Jesus as His Son when He inspired Scripture.
- These familial terms of the Godhead (Divine Familial Terms) must be translated accurately, or important theological truths will be lost.