

08b Divine Familial Terms 2 (DFT 2): Practice – Walkthrough

(White board; Appendix D – 60 to 90 min.)

Intro: Wycliffe Associates (WA) commits to support only Bible translations that use accurate and literal common language terms for “Father” and “Son” when referring to God and Jesus Christ. This is a conviction we committed to after this challenging issue was exposed in translation done in a primarily Muslim context.

Ask: Have you heard of the idea of using different terms to refer to God and Jesus instead of using “Father” and “Son”? What reasons or ideas were given for changing these terms? *(These questions will help you to know how much of the session your audience needs to hear. If they do not have struggles with this issue in their area, you can shorten this session.)*

Explain: In some Muslim environments, translators have changed these names (as well as making other changes to the text) to make the text more culturally acceptable to Muslims. Their desire is to be invitational to Muslims in the hopes that many would turn to the Lord for salvation. Unfortunately, they have used human wisdom in the hopes of achieving that goal.

Ask: Why do you think that translating “Father” and “Son” literally is so important?

- The Bible is God’s Word and we should translate it the way He communicated it.
- The doctrine of the Trinity is violated.
- The gospel message is changed.
- Refer to DFT Walkthrough 1 for more thoughts, if desired.

Explain: WA has created a resource to help translators confirm their correct use of “Father” and “Son.” This resource is designed as a useful aid; translators are not required to complete it and submit it to WA. But we do strongly recommend they use it if any question about the accuracy of these terms arises.

Show on bibleineverylanguage.org where people can download the four DFT Reviewer’s Guides.

- God the Father (NT)
- Jesus the Son (NT)
- God the Father (OT)
- Jesus the Son (OT)

Open Appendix D (*this is a pdf of the “God the Father Guide” that is found on bibleineverylanguage.org*)—“Review of Terms Used for God the Father”—and talk about different meanings for the word “Father” on page 3. (You don’t have to cover every way it is used; just show pages 3–4 and then ask about words they use.)

Ask: Do you have these ways of using *father* in your language?

Explain: Read “Translating the word ‘Father’” on page 4. Then remind them that other uses of the term “Father” may be translated differently, but when this term is used for God, it must be the common term for a biological father.

Exercise—Guided Practice: Appendix D, page 7, starts the table for checking terms. *(You may want to review pages 5–6 to be able to tell them how to use the terms table. You do not have to read pages 5–6 all together; just summarize the content while showing them the table on page 6.)* Then have them look up the verses (this can be done in any translation they can read) and confirm the presence of “Father.” They only need to do this with page 7. Repeat with as many verses as is needed for them to get the idea; if you have a large group, you can break them into small teams.

Confirm: All translators should have reviewed and should understand the DFT checking guide (Appendix D), complete with table. They should also understand that all 4 guides are available on bibleineverylanguage.org and should be used for reference with translators (especially in regions where this is an issue).