**Scripture Engagement—WALKTHROUGH**

*(White board, slide deck, paper and pens or pencils – 30–45 minutes for vision and planning, 10–20 minutes for full Acts 8 study, 45–60 minutes to describe SE resources.)*

**Intro: In this session, we are going to talk about using the newly translated Scripture in your language community. We will also talk about how Scripture in your language can possibly impact or affect your community, how this can motivate you to continue the translation work, and how WA could possibly assist.**

**Ask:** **What do you think it means for someone to be engaged in Scripture?**

**Explain:** People engaged in Scripture use the Bible regularly. They continue to learn and grow spiritually mature, which results in good works. Scripture Engagement means:

* Becoming mature in Christ. Ephesians 4:11–13 (through acts of service, unity in faith and knowledge of the Son of God)
* Becoming different from the world as our mind is being renewed. Romans 12:2
* Being equipped to do good works, through biblical training, teaching, rebuking, and correction. 2 Timothy 3:16–17

**Ask: Who remembers the 6 behaviors of church-owned Bible translation (COBT)?**

1. Mother-tongue speakers, in fellowship with their local church, take responsibility  
   for translating the Bible into the heart language of their local community.
2. The local church manages community accessibility to the translated Scripture.
3. Continuing refinement and revision will take place within the community, with  
   mother-tongue Christian speakers.
4. The church engages the local community in Scripture usage.
5. The local church shares the concept and methodology of church-owned Bible  
   translation with other language communities.
6. The local church takes ownership of generational revisions and updates to the  
   Scripture.

**Explain:** Communities doing church-owned Bible translation take responsibility for Scripture engagement.

**Ask: How is your community currently using Scripture?**  *(This will of course mean Scripture in a second language.)*

**Explain:** Some engagement methods that can be found in the Bible are:

* Preaching/church teaching (Nehemiah 8:1–8)
* Individual discipleship (Philip, Acts 8:26–32)
* Small group teachings/discipleship (Jesus and his disciples, Matthew 28:19–20)
* House visits/evangelism (Luke 10:1–9)
* Singing (Exodus 15, a song of praise, Psalms)

*(Discuss with them whether any engagement methods are currently difficult for believers in their community.)*

**Ask:** **When your newly translated Bible is complete and available, how do you think your community will use the translated Bible?** What change or difference do you think there will be compared to using the non-mother-tongue Bible?

**Explain:** It is possible that some people who do not have Scripture in their heart language have not thought of reading it for themselves or studying it together in groups. They have not had that opportunity yet. If you imagine what the impact can be in your community, that can motivate and encourage you to finish the hard translation work.

Take some time to answer the following questions about your own language group. The questions will help you to create an Engagement Plan for your own community. You will be able to look back at your Engagement Plan at times when you may feel discouraged.

* Revelation 22:12 “…I will give to each person according to what they have done”
* 1 Corinthians 3:8–9 “… each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God’s fellow workers…”

*(If any group has already made a plan, encourage them to review it while the other groups make their own plans.)*

**Questions:**

1. **How would you want to see your community engage with your mother-tongue Bible?**
2. **How can this vision become reality? What do you need to accomplish it?**
3. **If your vision becomes a plan, and that plan is carried out, what kind of impact could it have on your community?** This includes non-believers, churches you may not know, etc.

*(After their planning time, ask 2 or 3 groups to tell you some parts of their plan to encourage others.)*

**Confirm:** Community Scripture Engagement is important for the spread of the gospel and the spiritual growth of the church. Participants understand the necessity and benefits of creating/having an engagement plan, including how it could benefit their community and fulfill the Great Commission, and how it can be an encouragement in times when translation work is difficult. *(This is a good time to take a break.)*

**Exercise: Look at the book of Acts, chapter 8, verses 26 to 39. *Read Acts 8:26–39.***

**Possible questions to ask about the passage:**

* What do we learn about this man, the Ethiopian eunuch?
  + Was he a believer? (*Yes: he took time to read and worship.)*
  + Was he able to read?
* What did Philip ask him? And what was the man’s response? *(Do you understand? How can I unless I receive guidance?)*
* Is it safe to think that all people who can read the Bible can understand Scripture without help?
* In this example of the Ethiopian man and Philip, what effects can we see when people read and understand Scripture? *(Possible answers may include conversion, baptism, rejoicing, transformation: actions out of obedience.)*

**Confirm:**Participants understand the lesson from this passage—that sometimes believers need guidance to understand what they read in Scripture. Participants understand that this could also apply to their own communities, even when they have the Bible in their own language.

**Explain:**

* Scripture Engagement is a service for WA partners who want assistance.
* Depending on what is needed, WA can assist with training and Bible resources so that people in each community can be actively involved in their newly translated Bible. Scripture Engagement training and resources can help communities understand and apply what is in the Bible.
* **Using resources can help community members increase their use, love, and understanding of the Bible.**
* Sometimes people have a difficult time just knowing where to start. The idea of using the Bible outside of church may be new, and Scripture Engagement resources or training can help them to use the Bible more often and more easily. The training and resources can help people think about how to apply what the Bible says to their lives. And, of course, the goal of all Scripture engagement is for people to gain a deeper relationship with Jesus.

There are many kinds of resources available. Each of WA’s resources have the same license as your translated Bible: free to translate, free to copy or adapt. These are some examples that have been used to assist with people’s various needs:

* **Topical devotionals**
* **Bible study resources**
* **Reading plans**
* **Basic guides and worksheets**
* **Prayer cards**

*(Emphasize that each community may have different needs, and these are some examples of needs we have responded to in the past.)*

**Explain:** From the COBT behaviors, it is clear that Scripture engagement is the church’s responsibility. Some leaders already have a Scripture engagement plan, and everything they need to carry out that plan. But if you need a Philip, WA’s training and resources are available. If you do need assistance, these are the steps to take.

**SE PROCESS FLOW**

1. **Every community needs a Scripture Engagement plan**—that is the church’s responsibility, as we learned from the 6 COBT behaviors. Think about what your language group needs to help them to use, understand, and love their translated Bible more.
2. You can **consider** if you need or want *WA’s assistance* for your community.
3. **The time for action** will be when you are ready to request prints of a translated book or a New Testament or Old Testament project.
4. **At that time, ask** your Project Manager to give you WA’s Scripture Engagement Assessment (SEA). **Only 1 SEA** is needed per language group, but we encourage you to involve at least 2 different church leaders with this assessment, as it gives a bigger focus on the local community’s needs and not only on the local church’s needs. The next slide shows what this form looks like. It will ask about your vision and about what you need to meet your Scripture Engagement goals. Answering these questions helps us to understand your needs better, so we know how we can possibly support you.

* WA’s Scripture Engagement staff will **receive** your filled-in Scripture Engagement Assessment from your Project Manager.
* They will review your requests and needs and **put** **resources** together for your community’s unique needs, to assist with your SE plan/vision.

1. Then resources will be **sent** to you in your **gateway** language. This will usually be done through your Project Manager.
2. After your team looks at the resources, they may **decide** **to** **translate** them into your heart language *before* you use or distribute them in your community. ALL our resources are free to translate and distribute, just like the translated Bible that you are working on. Keep in mind that you may want to keep a few translators available for this work. Our resources are small, but we recommend for you to start your requests a few months prior to a Bible launch.
3. **Feedback.** After your community members have used the resources for a while, WA’s Scripture Engagement staff will contact you to find out how well the resources have worked for you, and if you have witnessed a change in your community’s engagement level. If not, the Scripture Engagement staff will help you find other ways to get closer to your engagement goal. If WA is unable to further address your needs, we will try to seek another partner to assist you.

However, not all language groups need assistance with Scripture Engagement. Even if this is true for your community, you can still help others by filling out the **Biblical Outcome Form that will be sent to you!**

**Confirm:** Participants understand the benefits of engaging in Scripture. They have thought about a goal and plan for their community’s engagement. They understand that Scripture Engagement resources and training are available to them and are aware how to request them.