Scripture Impact Research

Story-Centered Engagement Assessment Survey

CONVERSATIONAL INTERVIEW TOOL

📋 Scripture Impact Assessment Toolkit

📚 About This Tool

A comprehensive assessment framework for evaluating Scripture impact in language communities through story-centered interviews and systematic coding.

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Adapted by: NLCI Research and Innovation Department
Version: PDF for offline distribution

🎯 Matrix Coding Assessment

T	SE	S	M	NI
Translation Quality	Scripture Engagement	Spiritual Climate	Multilingual Dynamics	No Issues

Primary Category: [　]   **Use Level (1-4):** [　]   **Final Code:** [　]

Coding Notes & Rationale:

[　]

📋 Interview Guide & Assessment Framework

ⓘ Interview Guidelines

> 📝 **Recording Instructions:** *In each answer box, record stories, exact phrases, and detailed observations from the interview.*

→ Always ask for concrete recent stories, not hypothetical scenarios

→ Capture exact phrases and vernacular expressions verbatim

→ Note who was present, when it happened, and what followed

→ Say "Thank you" to normalize all answers, not "Good"

☆ Category Definitions

→ **T - Translation:** Quality, naturalness, key terms, comprehension, trust in translators

→ **SE - Scripture Engagement:** Access pathways, formats, distribution, acquisition barriers

→ **S - Spiritual Climate:** Openness, hunger, resistance, social dynamics around faith

→ **M - Multilingual:** Language choices, inclusion/exclusion, prestige, leader capability

→ **NI - No Issues:** Status quo adequate, low felt need for change

⊘ Use Levels

→ **Level 1:** Minimal/rare vernacular Scripture use

→ **Level 2:** Occasional use in specific contexts

→ **Level 3:** Regular use across multiple domains

→ **Level 4:** Integrated/normalized across all domains

ⓘ Key Reminders

→ Ground all questions in actual events the respondent attended

→ Listen for affect: curiosity, fear, indifference, enthusiasm

→ Map language functions systematically (worship vs teaching vs prayer)

→ Avoid leading questions; let stories emerge naturally

💡
INTERVIEW DETAILS

Assessment Date: _____

Interviewer: _____

Community/Location: _____

W Warm Up & Rapport

1

Tell me about a normal week for you—work, family, gatherings. `warm_week`

Context & rhythm; note domains and language choices.

2

When people in your household talk about important things (health, money, God), what languages do you use? `warm_languages`

Early multilingual cues.

P Personal Scripture Experience

3

Think about the last time you heard or used the Bible in your own language. Tell me the story.

`pers_last`

Record time markers and participants.

4

If you go many days without hearing or reading it, what usually fills that space instead?

`pers_gap`

Substitute practices / other language.

5

A time it felt especially helpful or powerful—what made it so? `pers_power`
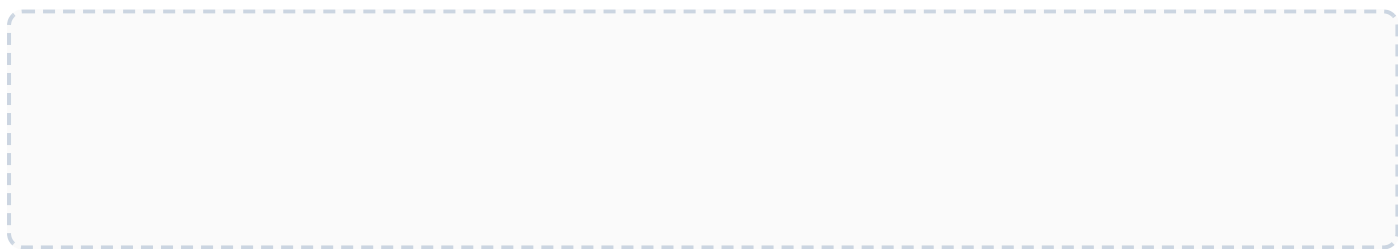
Positive value signals.

6

A time you had access but chose not to use it—what was going on? `pers_skip`

Potential barriers.

C Community & Church Use

7

In the church gatherings you attend, what languages show up in different parts? Tell me about last week. `comm_gather`

Map functions to languages.

8

Outside formal services (funerals, weddings, youth), do you hear Scripture in your language? Recent example? `comm_events`

Domain breadth.

9

Who most often brings out the local language Bible? Who almost never does? `comm_people`

Roles & adoption patterns.

10

If a visitor asked how common local Scripture use is here, what story would you tell?

`comm_story`

Narrative prevalence statement.

T Translation Experience

11

When you listen to a passage, what parts feel smooth and what parts feel strange? Examples?

`trans_natural`

Naturalness vs awkwardness.

12

Have you heard people complain or joke about the wording? What did they say?

`trans_comments`

Community attitudes.

13

(If reading) Describe what happens inside you when you read—where do you slow down?

`trans_read`

Processing friction.

14

(If not reading) If you wanted to read it, what would make that hard? `trans_barrier`

Literacy/orthography barriers.

15

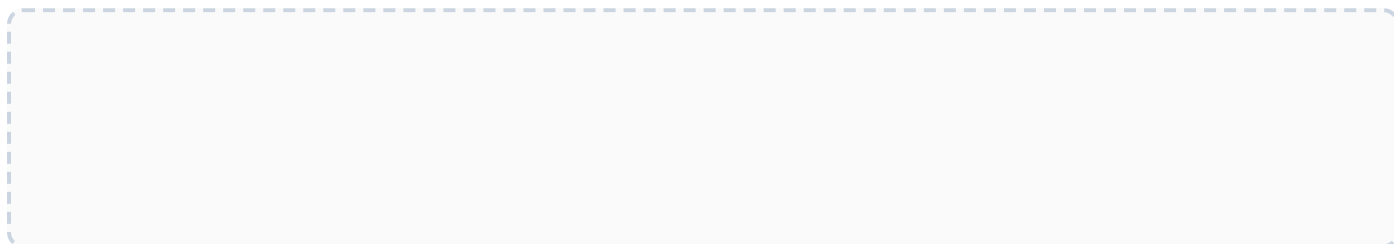**[Retell] After hearing a short passage, tell it back in your own words.** `trans_retell`

Assess comprehension—note omissions.

16

What do people say for King / Kingdom / Priest / Prophet / Salvation / Messiah? What does each mean to you? `trans_terms`
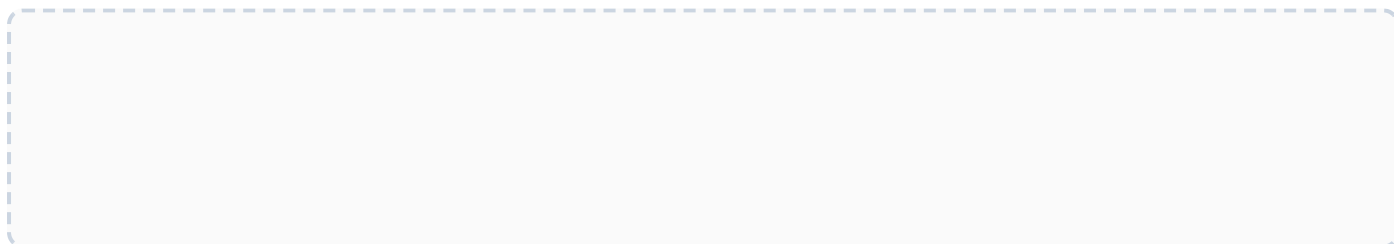
Key term semantics.

17

People sometimes notice who worked on the translation. What kind of people do others say they were? `trans_trust`

Trust / acceptance.

SE Access & Engagement

18

If someone today wanted to hear or read Scripture in your language, what could they practically do? `eng_access`

Access pathways.

19

Which forms have you actually seen (print, audio, app, video, songs, drama)? Which used most? `eng_forms`

Format availability vs use.

20

Tell me about the last time you saw someone get a copy. Easy or hard? `eng_get`

Acquisition friction.

21

Are there people who would like it but don't have it? What gets in the way? `eng_obstacles`

Barriers inventory.

22

If a young person wants Bible input, what do they reach for first? Why? `eng_youth`

Youth behavior indicator.

23

Tell me what you know about (choose) Moses / David / Jeremiah / Jonah. `eng_knowledge`

Narrative knowledge level.

24

Tell me about (choose) Passover / David & Goliath / Daniel & the Lions / Ruth. `eng_events`
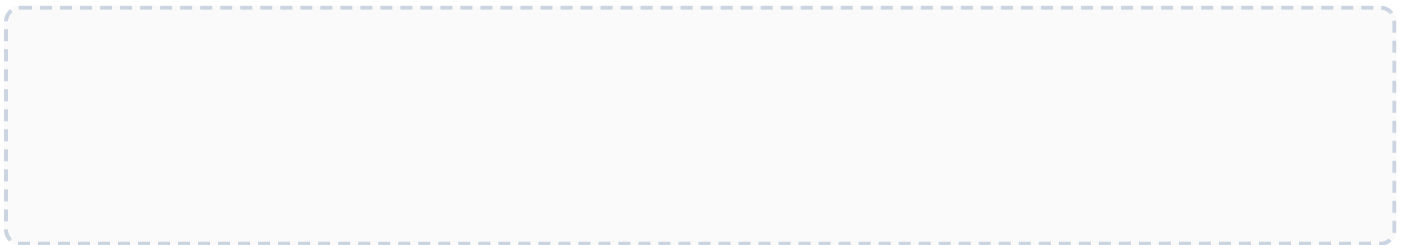
Event knowledge.

25

If you had more of something (teaching, audio, stories, training), what would help people use Scripture more? `eng_help`

Perceived leverage points.

S Spiritual Climate

26

When people around you talk about knowing God, what feelings do they show? Recent example? `spir_talk`

Affective tone.

27

If a neighbor wanted to follow Jesus more seriously, what reactions would they expect?

`spir_react`

Social cost.

28

Are there moments when people become more open (crisis, harvest, holidays)? Describe one.

`spir_moments`

Openness triggers.

29

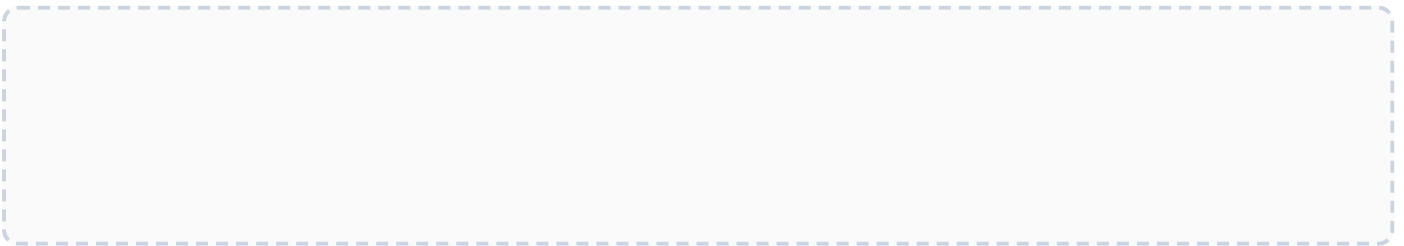Friends who used to be more spiritually hungry—what changed?　`spir_change`

Decline factors.

30

If someone new wanted guidance, how quickly could they find someone to walk with them?

`spir_guidance`

Mentor availability.

M Language Choices (Multilingual)

31

In the last church meeting, list parts and what language each used. `multi_parts`

Functional distribution.

32

Why do leaders choose those languages? What reasons do they give? `multi_reasons`

Rationale depth.

33

When a passage is in another language, who seems left out? `multi_leftout`

Impact of language choice.

34

If leaders wanted more impact among elders / youth / women, which language would help and why? `multi_impact`

Strategic alternative.

35

Do leaders speak your local language well enough to use it naturally? Tell me about one leader. `multi_proficiency`

Leader capability.

36

Have people discussed changing languages used? What happened? `multi_change`

Change dynamics.

✓ Wrap-Up & Reflection

37

If you could change one thing tomorrow to help people use Scripture in your language more, what would it be? `wrap_change`

Perceived leverage point.

38

Is there anything important we haven't talked about? `wrap_missing`

Uncovered themes.

39

Do some people feel no need for changes? Why might they feel everything is already fine?

`wrap_fine`

NI condition signals.

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`wrap_fine`

NI condition signals.