

Wycliffe Associates

Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide

Doctrine of God the Father

Biblical Statement	2
Matthew 6:1-13	3
Matthew 11:25-27	5
Mark 14:32-39	6
John 5:17-18	8
John 5:36-47	9
John 6:32-40	11
John 20:16-17	13
Revelation 1:4-6	14

Biblical Statement

God is also referred to as the Father of Jesus.

God is three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each one of these persons is fully and equally God, and yet they are only one God. This is a mystery that humans cannot fully understand.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit have the same character.

The Father sent the Son (Jesus) into the world, and the Father and the Son send the Holy Spirit to his people.

Though the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are equally God, in most instances in the New Testament, the word "God" implies "God the Father."

Matthew 6:1-13

Background: This passage is from the gospel of Matthew. A crowd gathered to hear Jesus. He went up on the hillside and when his disciples had gathered around him, he began to teach. In this section, he taught them how to pray.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Jesus said not to “show off” by doing good deeds like giving to the poor in front of other people or praying out loud on street corners just to be seen.
- ☐ He said that for those who do their good deeds in front of people, the praise of the people would be their reward.
- ☐ He told them to give in secret and their Father would see.
- ☐ He told them to pray in secret, and their Father who already knows what they need would hear them.
- ☐ He said not to pray in useless repetition like the Gentiles.
- ☐ Then he showed them how to pray.
- ☐ He said to start with “Our Father...”
- ☐ He said to honor the Father’s name, to pray for daily needs, for His kingdom to come, and for his will to be done in the earth, and to pray for forgiveness and for protection from temptation and evil.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Jesus warn them against doing? [6:1]
He warned them not to do their good deeds to be seen by others.
2. What did he say the result of doing their good deeds in front of people to be seen by them would be? [6:1]
Their Father in heaven would not reward them.
3. Whom did Jesus mean by “Your Father in heaven”? [6:1]
He was talking about God.
4. What did he say about the Father in verses 4 and 6?
That he sees what is done in secret and he will reward them.
5. What did he say the Father knows in verse 8?
He knows what they need before they ask for it.
6. What did Jesus tell his disciples to call God when they prayed?
He told them to call him “our Father.”
7. What things did Jesus tell them to pray about? [6:9-13]
He said to pray for the Father’s name to be honored as holy and for his kingdom to come. He said to pray for their daily needs, for forgiveness, and for protection from temptation and evil.
8. Jesus said to pray to “our Father”; to whom do you think “our” refers?
Here “our” refers to Jesus and his disciples as well as all those who pray, believing in Him.

Matthew 6:1-13 continued

9. What does 6:1-13 teach about the Father?

- He is in heaven.
- He sees things done in secret.
- He rewards obedience.
- He knows what a person needs even before the person prays.
- He deserves his name to be honored.
- He can provide for needs and forgive sins and protect people from temptation and evil.

Comment Section:

Matthew 11:25-27

Background: This passage is from the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus has been teaching the crowds.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Jesus praised the Father.
- ☐ His Father had hidden things from the wise and revealed them to children.
- ☐ The Father entrusted all things to Jesus.
- ☐ Only the Father knows the Son.
- ☐ No one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son has revealed the Father.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Whom did Jesus praise? [11:25]
He praised his Father.
2. What did Jesus call him? [11:25]
He called him, "Father, Lord of heaven and earth."
3. Who do you think is the Lord of heaven and earth? [11:25]
God.
4. What did Jesus say that his Father had done? [11:27]
His Father had entrusted all things to him (Jesus).
5. To whom do you think Jesus was referring when he spoke about his Father? [11:27]
He was referring to God the Father.
6. Who knows the Son? [11:27]
No one except the Father.
7. To whom was Jesus referring when he spoke about "the Son"?
He was referring to himself.
8. Who knows the Father?
Only the Son and those to whom the Son reveals him.

Comment Section:

Mark 14:32-39

Background: Jesus had finished having his last supper with the 12 disciples. He told them that one of the 12 disciples would betray him. When he took them to the Mount of Olives, he told the disciples that they all, including Peter, would abandon him.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Jesus and his disciples went to Gethsemane.
- ☐ Jesus told them to sit while he went to pray
- ☐ Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him.
- ☐ Jesus became very troubled and said that he felt so overwhelmed with sadness that he felt that he could die.
- ☐ Jesus left the three disciples and went farther away.
- ☐ Jesus fell to the ground and asked his Father to take this cup from him if possible.
- ☐ However, Jesus wanted his Father's will to be done rather than his own.
- ☐ He went back and found that the three disciples had fallen asleep.
- ☐ Jesus told Peter to stay awake and to pray so that he would be able to resist temptation.
- ☐ Jesus went back and prayed the same thing that he had before.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Where did Jesus and his disciples go? [14:32]
To Gethsemane.
2. Which disciples did Jesus take with him when he went to pray? [14:33]
Peter, James, and John.
3. How did Jesus feel after he left with Peter, James, and John? [14:33-34]
He was troubled greatly. He was overwhelmed with sadness to the point of dying.
4. After Jesus left Peter, James, and John, to whom did Jesus pray? [14:36]
To Abba, Father. Abba in the New Testament always refers to God the Father. (Mark 14:36, Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:6)
5. Jesus prayed to "Abba, Father." What does that tell us about the identity of the one he called "Abba, Father"?
The one Jesus called "Abba, Father" is God the Father. (God was the only one Jesus ever prayed to, so this "Abba, Father" had to be God the Father.)
6. What did Jesus pray? [14:36]
He prayed that Abba, Father, who can do all things, would take this cup from him, but he wanted the Father's will to be done, not his own.
7. What do you think it means for the Father to take this cup away from Jesus? [14:36]
Jesus spoke of his suffering and death as if they were something he would drink from a cup. Jesus was asking for the Father to find a way to complete his purposes without Jesus having to suffer and die.

Mark 14:32-39 continued

8. When Jesus went back to the 3 disciples what were they doing? [14:37]
Sleeping.
9. What did Jesus tell Peter to do? [14:38]
He told him that they should watch and pray so that they would be able to resist temptation because the spirit may be willing but the body is weak.
10. What do you think it means that the spirit is willing but the body is weak? [14:38]
It means people may want to do what is right, but when they are actually tempted they find that they are not able to keep from doing wrong.
11. What did Jesus do after speaking with Peter? [14:39]
He went and prayed the same thing that he prayed before to the Father.

Comment Section:

John 5:17-18

Background: In this section of John's Gospel, Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath day. This angered some of the Jewish leaders because they believed healing the man was work, and Jesus should not have done any work on the Sabbath. Jesus responded to them, explaining why he healed on the Sabbath.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Jesus said that he was working and his Father was working too.
- ☐ The Jews in the crowd wanted to kill Jesus for working on the Sabbath and for calling God "Father."
- ☐ The Jews believed that by calling God his "Father" Jesus was claiming to be equal to God.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Jesus say about his Father in verse 17?
"My Father is working even now."
2. What did Jesus say about himself in verse 17?
"I too, am working."
3. Why were the Jews angry when Jesus called God his Father? [5:18]
Because Jesus was making himself equal with God by calling God his own Father. The Jews did not believe that God was Jesus' Father and that Jesus was equal with God.

Comment Section:

John 5:36-47

Background: In this section of John's Gospel, Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath day. This angered some of the Jewish leaders because they believed that healing the man was work and that Jesus should not have done any work on the Sabbath. This passage continues Jesus' response to them.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Jesus said he had a testimony that means more than even the testimony of John the Baptist.
- ☐ The work given to Jesus by the Father which Jesus was doing testifies that the Father sent Jesus.
- ☐ The Father also had testified concerning Jesus.
- ☐ Jesus said that those who had refused to accept him had never heard or seen the Father, nor did they believe the Scriptures.
- ☐ Jesus knew that the Jews who were persecuting him did not have the love of God.
- ☐ They were willing to accept someone who came in his own authority, but they did not accept Jesus, who had come in the authority of his Father.
- ☐ They could not believe because they were more concerned with receiving praise from others than praise from the only God.
- ☐ Jesus told them that he would not accuse them to the Father, but that Moses would accuse them.
- ☐ Jesus said that if they believed Moses they would believe him, but since they did not actually believe Moses, they could not believe him.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What testimony did Jesus say was more important than even the testimony of John the Baptist? [5:36]
The works that Jesus was doing.
2. What did Jesus' works testify? [5:36]
That the Father had sent Jesus.
3. Who else testified concerning Jesus? [5:37]
The Father also testified concerning Jesus.
4. How do you think the Father testified about Jesus? [5:37-39]
He testified about Jesus through this word, the scriptures.
5. What did Jesus say was true about the Jews who did not believe him? [5:37-38]
He said that they had never heard or seen the Father and they did not have his word in their hearts.
6. What did Jesus say about the people he was talking to? [5:39-40]
He said that they carefully read the scriptures because they wanted eternal life, but they were not willing to come to Jesus.
7. Why was it foolish for them not to come to Christ? [5:39-40]
They wanted eternal life, and Jesus was the one who could give it to them.

John 5:36-47 continued

8. What else did Jesus say about the Jews who did not believe him? [5:42]
He knew that the love of God was not in their hearts.
9. In whose name, that is, in whose authority did Jesus come? [5:43]
The Father's.
10. What kind of person did Jesus say that these Jews would accept? [5:43]
They would accept a person who came in his own name, that is, who came by his own authority.
11. What question did Jesus then ask the Jews? [5:44]
He asked them how they could possibly believe when they were more concerned about receiving praise from each other than receiving praise from the only God.
12. Who did Jesus say would accuse those Jews who did not believe him? [5:45]
Moses.
13. Why would Moses testify against them? [5:46]
Because Moses wrote about Jesus, but they did not believe Jesus or even Moses.

Comment Section:

John 6:32-40

Background: In this chapter, Jesus fed 5,000 men plus the women and children with them. When they followed him to the other side of the lake, Jesus told the crowd that they were following him only because he gave them food. He said that they should believe in him so that they might receive something that lasts forever. The people asked Jesus for a sign like the manna Moses gave the people in the wilderness so that they could believe in him. The following is Jesus' response to them.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Jesus said that it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven, but it was Jesus' Father who gave the true bread from heaven.
- ☐ He who came down from heaven to give life is the bread of God.
- ☐ The people asked Jesus to give them this bread.
- ☐ Jesus said that he is the bread of life; he said that those who came and believed in him would never be hungry or thirsty.
- ☐ Jesus said that the people had seen but still did not believe.
- ☐ All those that the Father sends to Jesus, Jesus will not turn away.
- ☐ Jesus had come to do the will of the Father.
- ☐ The Father's will is that Jesus will not lose anyone the Father has given him.
- ☐ Jesus will raise them up on the last day.
- ☐ It is the will of the Father that anyone who believes in Jesus shall have eternal life and be raised up on the last day.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Who did Jesus say gives the true bread from heaven? [6:32]
Jesus' Father.
2. Who is Jesus' Father?
God the Father.
3. How did Jesus describe the bread of God? [6:33]
The bread of God is the one who came down from heaven to give life to the people of the world.
4. How did Jesus answer the people when they asked for him to give them this bread? [6:35]
He told them that he is the bread of life, and those who come and believe in him will never be hungry or thirsty.
5. In what way do you think believers in Jesus are never hungry or thirsty? [6:35]
Believers in Jesus will never have a spiritual hunger or thirst. God will provide for their every spiritual need.
6. Where did Jesus say he came from? [6:38]
He said he came down from heaven.
7. To whom do you think Jesus was referring when he spoke of the one who sent him? [6:38-39]
He was referring to God the Father.

John 6:32-40 continued

8. What did Jesus say is the will of the Father? [6:39-40]

It is the will of the Father that

- Jesus should not lose any of those whom God gives to him.
- All who believe in Jesus shall receive eternal life and be raised up on the last day.

Comment Section:

John 20:16-17

Background: After Jesus died on the cross, Jesus' friends put his body in a tomb on Friday, just before the Sabbath. This passage begins the morning after the Sabbath. Mary found the tomb empty and asked a man where Jesus' body might be. She thought the man was a gardener. The man was actually Jesus, and the following is what he said to Mary.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Jesus said, "Mary."
- ☐ She turned toward Jesus and said to him "Teacher."
- ☐ Jesus told her not to hold on to him because he had not yet returned to the Father.
- ☐ He told her to go to his brothers, that is, the disciples, and tell them that he is returning to his and their Father and his and their God.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. To whom did Jesus speak? [20:16]
Mary.
2. What did Mary call him when she turned towards him? [20:16]
Rabboni, that is, Teacher.
3. What did Jesus say to Mary? [20:17]
He told her that she should not hold on to him because he had not yet returned to the Father.
4. Whose Father and God was Jesus returning to? [20:17]
He was returning to his Father and God and the disciples' Father and God.
5. How many individuals was Jesus referring to when he said "my Father and your Father" and "my God and your God"?
He was referring to only one individual. Jesus' Father and God and the disciples' Father and God is one individual.

Comment Section:

Revelation 1:4-6

Background: This is the beginning of the message that Jesus revealed to the Apostle John.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ John wrote a letter to the seven churches in Asia.
- ☐ John prayed for grace and peace from the one who is, was, and is to come, from the seven spirits, and from Jesus Christ.
- ☐ John described Jesus as the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over all the kings of the world.
- ☐ John gave praise to the one who loves them, released them from their sins, and made them a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. To whom was John writing this letter? [1:4]
He was writing a letter to the seven churches in Asia.
2. John prayed for the churches to receive grace and peace from whom? [1:4-5]
 - The one who is, was, and is to come.
 - The seven spirits before the throne.
 - Jesus Christ.
3. Who do you think is the one who is, was, and is to come? [1:4]
God the Father.
4. Who do you think is the seven spirits before the throne? [1:4]
It is probably the Holy Spirit.
5. How did John describe Jesus Christ? [1:5]
 - The faithful witness.
 - The firstborn from the dead.
 - The ruler of all the kings of the world.
6. What did John say that Jesus has done for believers? [1:6]
 - He has loved them.
 - He has freed them from sin by his death.
 - He has made them a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father.

Comment Section: