

Wycliffe Associates

Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide

Doctrine of God; Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

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Doctrine: God—Loving and Relational Nature

Biblical Statement

God is infinite and all-powerful, yet he is personal and cares for his creation.

God is concerned with the well-being of human beings and wants to have a relationship with them.

God is always present with his people and he can be trusted to do what is best for them.

God made it possible for his people to come to him, to seek his help, and to receive his grace and mercy. He has promised that he will never leave the people he loves.

God's love and grace are perfectly demonstrated in the life of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 11:28-30

Background: Jesus addressed a group who had followed him and they had been listening to his teaching. Here he spoke to the crowd as he finished his sermon.

Part 1

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

- ☐ Christ invited the tired and burdened to come to him for rest.
- ☐ People should take Jesus' yoke upon them and learn from him because he is gentle and humble. (People should become Jesus' disciples and learn from him because he is gentle and humble.)
- ☐ Christ said that his way is easy and his burden is light.
- ☐ Christ said that he gives rest for soul.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Jesus tell his listeners to do? [11:28]
He told them to come to him, and learn from him. (He also said to take up his yoke.)
2. What had Jesus offered to give to anyone who came to him? [11:28]
He offered to give them rest.
3. What do you think Jesus meant when he said that he would give rest to those who came to him? [11:28]
Jesus gives them spiritual rest. That means he causes them to have peace in their bodies, minds and spirits.
4. What do you think Jesus meant when he said "take my yoke upon you"? [11:29]
It means they should become his disciple by obeying his teachings.
5. What did Jesus say about his nature? [11:29]
He said that he is gentle and humble.
6. What do you think Jesus meant when he described himself as "gentle and humble"? [11:29]
Any answer that demonstrates an understanding of Jesus' kindness and caring nature is adequate.
7. What does Jesus want them to know about what God is like?
Jesus tells them about how God cares about his people and he wants them to trust him, and that God gives them his peace.

Comment Section:

Hebrews 4:14-16

Background: This passage is from the book of Hebrews. The author of Hebrews was addressing Jews who had become Christians. This section teaches that Jesus is greater than angels, the priests, the sacrifice, and the law given through Moses.

Part 1

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

- ☐ Jesus is a great high priest and the Son of God.
- ☐ Jesus has passed through heavens.
- ☐ Believers should hold firmly to the faith they profess. (Believers should continue to trust the Christian teachings.)
- ☐ Jesus sympathizes with humans because he was tempted as all humans are tempted.
- ☐ Jesus did not sin.
- ☐ Believers should bravely approach the throne of grace to seek help and mercy.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. In verse 14 how did the author describe Jesus?
Jesus is a great high priest and the Son of God.
2. Where did the author say Jesus had gone? [4:14]
He had passed through the heavens.
3. Since Jesus is a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, what should believers do? [4:14]
Believers should firmly hold to the belief they have in Christ. This means that Christians should continue believing the true teachings about Christ.
4. How was Jesus like all believers? How was he different? [4:15]
He was like all believers when he lived on earth in a human body because he was tempted in the same way that all believers are tempted. But he was different from believers because he never sinned.
5. What are believers told to do? [4:16]
Believers should go to the throne of grace, that God may be kind to them and help them even when they don't deserve it.
6. What do you think is meant by "go to the throne of grace"? [4:16]
Here, the word "throne" represents God himself. This phrase means a person should go to God, who is gracious.
7. How do you think a person goes before the throne of grace? [4:16]
This is done through prayer--talking directly to God. The translation should not imply that a person must go to heaven or to any physical location in order to go to God.
8. What is the purpose of believers going to the throne of grace? [4:16]
Believers go to the throne to receive mercy and find grace in times of need.

Hebrews 4:14-16 continued

9. With what attitude should believers go to the throne of grace? [4:16]

Believers should go to the throne of grace with confidence.

10. What does verse 16 tell us about God?

He is gracious and merciful, and he helps believers in times of need even though they don't deserve it.

Comment Section:

Doctrine: Holy Spirit—The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

Biblical Statement

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity.

The Holy Spirit is fully God and therefore possesses all the attributes of God.

The Holy Spirit lives within believers and helps them. He convicts people of sin and warns of coming judgment.

He is referred to as a Comforter, Helper, and Advocate for the believer.

John 14:16-17

Background: This section is taken from the Gospel of John, where he wrote about a conversation Jesus had with his disciples. Jesus had just told them that he would be leaving them, and so he gave them final instructions and words of encouragement.

Part 1

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

- ☐ Jesus said he would pray to the Father and the Father would send the Comforter, the Spirit of truth.
- ☐ The world cannot receive the Spirit, but the Spirit lives in the disciples and be with them forever.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Jesus say he would pray for? [14:16]
He would pray for the Father to send another Comforter. (Comforter is sometimes translated as “Advocate”)
2. How do you understand the phrase in your language for “Comforter” or “Advocate”? [4:16]
The word “Comforter” or “Advocate” in the original language refers to a counselor who helps a person in court. But other English versions also communicate these ideas: one who comforts, one who encourages, one who helps.
3. What other name did Jesus call the Comforter? [14:17]
He is also called the Spirit of Truth.
4. How do you understand the phrase in your language for “Spirit of Truth”? [14:17]
He is the Spirit who teaches what is true about God.
5. How will the Spirit help and comfort them? [14:16-17]
The Spirit lives with them and will be in them forever.

Comment Section:

John 16:12-14

Background: This section is taken from the Gospel of John. This passage took place at the end of Jesus' public ministry as Jesus was preparing his disciples for his arrest and death on the cross. He gives them more information about the work of the Spirit of Truth.

Part 1

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

- ☐ Jesus wanted to tell his disciples many things, but they would not understand
- ☐ The Spirit of Truth will guide them in all truth
- ☐ The Spirit only speaks what he hears
- ☐ The Spirit will glorify Jesus
- ☐ The Spirit will hear what Jesus says and he will tell that to the disciples.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Who did Jesus say was coming? [16:13]
"The Spirit of Truth"
2. How do you understand the phrase "Spirit of Truth" in your language? [16:13]
This is the Spirit that teaches what is true about God.
3. What did Jesus say the Spirit of Truth would do when he came? [16:13]
He would guide them into all truth and would tell them everything that Jesus told him to teach them.
4. What did Jesus say that the Spirit would tell the disciples? [16:13-14]
The Spirit would tell the disciples everything that he hears. He will tell them about the things that are to come.

Comment Section:

Romans 8:9-11

Background: This passage is from a letter that Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome. In this section, Paul taught about the difference between being controlled by the sinful nature and being controlled by the Holy Spirit who is living within all Christians.

Part 1

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

- ☐ Christians are not in the flesh but in the Spirit. (Christians are not subject to their sinful nature but are subject to the Spirit.)
- ☐ If someone does not have the Spirit they do not belong to Christ.
- ☐ But if Christ is in you, the Spirit makes you alive because of righteousness (because you have been made right with God).
- ☐ The Spirit gives life to their mortal bodies.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. In verse 9, how did Paul describe Christians?
They are not in the flesh but in the Spirit. (Paul described the conflict between the flesh and the Spirit.)
2. How do you understand the phrase in your language for “in the flesh”? [8:9]
It means living according to the sinful human nature. This sinful human nature is opposed to God.
3. How do you understand the phrase in your language for “in the Spirit”? [8:9]
This means to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit lives in obedience to God.
4. What did Paul say is true of anyone who does not have the Spirit? [8:9]
He is not a believer and he does not belong to Christ.
5. What did he say the Spirit would do for believers? [8:11]
He will give life to their mortal bodies.

Comment Section:

1 Corinthians 2:9-12

Background: This book is written by the Apostle Paul to the Christians in the city of Corinth. This passage starts with Paul quoting the prophet Isaiah from the Old Testament.

Part 1

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

- ☐ No one has seen, heard, or imagined the things that God has prepared for those who love him.
- ☐ It is by the Holy Spirit that God tells people about the things he has prepared for them.
- ☐ The Holy Spirit knows the mind of God, like the spirit of a person knows the person's thoughts.
- ☐ Believers don't have the spirit of the world.
- ☐ Believers have the Spirit who is from God.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Who reveals to believers what God has given to them? [2:10]
His Spirit (the Holy Spirit) reveals it.
2. In verse 11, what did Paul say about the Spirit of God?
The Spirit of God knows the thoughts of God, just like a person's thoughts are known by the spirit within himself.
3. Why does God give the Spirit of God to people? [2:12]
God gives the Spirit of God so that people might know the things that God wants to give them.
4. What are the three spirits mentioned in this passage? [2:10-12]
Spirit of God, spirit of the world, and spirit of the person.

Comment Section: