LESSON DEFINITIONS

Illuminate – To enlighten intellectually with knowledge or grace.

Kindreds – Clans or tribes; extended family.

Nations – Races of people joined by practicing similar customs or a common culture.

Peoples – Groups distinguished by a particular language and culture.

Revelation – The act of disclosing or discovering to others what was before unknown to them; appropriately, the disclosure or communication of truth to men by God Himself.

Tongues – Languages; people distinguished by speech.

Transformation – A change of heart in man, by which his disposition and temper are conformed to the divine image; a change from enmity to holiness and love.

Translation – The act of turning into another language.

To see this lesson taught by a Bearing Precious Seed representative, please visit bpsmilford.org/nbpm/resources.

TEACHER NOTES:

NATIONAL BIBLE PUBLISHING MONTH

TRANSLATION

GOD ILLUMINATES THE WORLD

TEEN TEACHER GUIDE 4

LESSON FOUR: TRANSLATION

God Illuminates The World

DISCUSSION TIME

You have been a good and faithful agent. The work you have accomplished has not only transported the message to this city, but you have also put in place the means by which to provide that message to the next generations. As you consider the message you have been given, you realize your work is not yet complete. There appears to be a reoccurring code throughout the entire message. You see words such as all people, all nations, all the world and then you are struck with the reality of the task. The message was not just to be taken to the one city, but to the entire world.

What do you think must be your next step to get this printed message to people in every city, every nation, on every continent?

In order to fulfill this urgent mission, the message must be taken to every individual on the face of the earth. The daunting challenge is that the message must be relayed to the recipients in their own language. You must be diligent to get this message translated.

READ REVELATION 7:9-10

What words in verse nine indicate God's Word must be translated**?
ALL NATIONS**, KINDREDS**, PEOPLES**, AND TONGUES

In the context of spoken languages, the words *translate*** and *translation*** are not found in the Bible. However, inferences such as *all the nations**, all the earth, all ye people**, all ye inhabitants of the world**, every creature, all ye lands, every tribe, every tongue**, uttermost part of the earth, regions beyond,* and *out of every nation*** are found in Scripture. In order for this to occur, all nations** (people groups) must be able to hear or read the Word of God in their heart language. If *"...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (Rom. 10:17), then someone must interpret by mouth and translate** by pen.

There are several evidences in Scripture indicating that Bible translation** is a piece of God's plan necessary to accomplish His desire of illumination**. God's command to go to all nations** gives evidence. It was a genuine concern of the Old Testament writers (Is. 34:1-2; Zech. 2:11; Zech. 8:22-23; Ps. 117:1; Ps. 22:27-28; Ps. 67:2; Ps. 72:11, 17), and it was also a genuine concern of the Apostle Paul ("unto the ends of the earth" Ac. 13:47; *"cause that it be read"* Col. 4:16; *"regions beyond you"* II Cor. 10:16). It was definitely a genuine concern of Jesus Christ. These passages reveal His desire to reach all nations:** (*"the world"* Jn. 3:16; Jn. 8:12; *"them that believe"* Jn. 1:1-12; *"Whosoever"* Jn. 4:13; *"every creature"* Mk. 16:15). The people He reached also show His desire to reach all nations.**

What nationalities were the people whose lives Jesus changed in the following passages?
ROMAN CENTURION (Matthew 8:5-13)
SYROPHOENICIAN WOMAN (Mark 7:25-30)
MAN FROM THE GADARENES (Luke 8:26-37)
SAMARITAN LEPER (Luke 17:11-19)
GREEKS AT JERUSALEM (John 12:20-32)

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-11

What small four-letter word in verse eleven indicates a changed life? ***WERE***

The end goal of Bible-translation** should be less about words on a page and more about transforming** lives. Producing a Bible in the heart language of a people allows each element of a culture to be given a standard, a measuring stick, by which lifestyles and customs can be compared with the Word of God.

A natural byproduct of Bible TRANSLATION** will be TRANSFORMATION.*

Let's discuss your thoughts about these following questions.
How would you describe the spiritual climate of our world today?
Is it getting closer to God or further from Him?
What is the solution for the world's spiritual condition?
What part should you have in providing this solution?
Do you think God has stopped calling missionaries or have we Christians just stopped listening?

Here are some facts that reveal the need for Bible translation:**

- Over ***7,300*** known major languages are spoken globally.
- Approximately **600** languages have the entire Bible.
- ***1,500*** languages have only the New Testament.
- ***1,005*** languages have only Scripture portions (one or more books).
- 209,000,000 people have no Scripture portion at all in their language.
- 40% of the nearly 8billion people living today do not have access to any Scripture.

Knowing these facts, we have a convicting dilemma.

- 70% of Independent Baptist missionaries are over ***60*** years old (*BIMI statistics*).
- Only ***1 %*** of Bible college students in America are preparing to go to the foreign field.
- For every ***10*** people who surrender to the field, only one actually makes it there.
- For every ***4*** missionaries that return home on furlough, only one returns to the field.
- On average, comparing the number of known missionaries going to the field and the number of churches in the U.S., it takes ***4*** churches to produce one missionary (ratio of missionary to churches is 1:4).

A lost world sits in darkness, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the source of Light (Rom 10:17). The Gospel must be in one's language in order to see the Light. With so many people without a Bible in their heart language, there is an urgent need for laborers. Yes, we need messengers to carry the message of God's dear Son to them. However, there is also great occasion for servants to surrender to the noble call of Bible translation.** **Would you consider allowing Him to use your gifts and talents to do this vital task?**

***– *Indicates a defined word within the lesson.*