



## Activity

Rewrite the following sentence in your own words: "He has the right to criticize who has the heart to help." — Abraham Lincoln

Now compare your "translation" with what the others in your group wrote.

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## Biblical Insight

The invention of the printing press had a great impact on Christianity. Previously, the Bible had been laboriously copied by hand. Only the rich could afford a copy of God's Word. But that changed in the fifteenth century. Thanks to the movable-type printing press of Johann Gutenberg, common people could afford to buy a book. The Mazarin Bible, completed no later than 1455, is thought to be the first book printed in Europe.

Surely God showed His grace in providing the printing

press. Even though printing quickly became used in the reproduction of non-Christian books, the underlying plan of God cannot be ignored. We are reminded in Psalm 111:7,8, "The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. They are steadfast for ever and ever, done in faithfulness and uprightness." Now the Bible is found on the Internet, on video, on paper, and heard over the radio. It is amazing to think that just one-hundred years ago most of this was impossible; the availability of the printed word was not anywhere close to the availability of the Word of God today.

## Composition

A legend has been passed down concerning the translation of the Old Testament (written in Hebrew) into the Greek language used by the people in Jesus' day. This translation was called the Septuagint. The legend states that seventy men working in near separation came together with few differences between their translations.

How did your "translation" of Lincoln's sentence compare with your friends'? Now, take time to work as a committee and rewrite the sentence so that it still holds its meaning and is agreed on by everyone. If possible, make it a witty or catchy phrase.

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## Discussion

A major significance of biblical discoveries such as the Dead Sea Scrolls has been to reaffirm the amazing accuracy of our Bible translations. Manuscripts much older than any previously known have matched with meticulous consistency the much younger texts. What does God's great concern for even the tiniest detail of the preservation and translation of His Word demonstrate about His care for us?

## Evaluation

Think about the greatness of God and how He has preserved His Word all these years. How important is it to accurately translate His Word into other languages? Does God hold us accountable when we do not use His Word correctly?

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## Lesson 5

A: Answers will vary.

C: Answers will vary.

D: God wants His true, perfect Word to be available to us today just as it was to those through whom it was originally given. God's Word, like God himself, does not change. It could also demonstrate God's care for even the smallest details of our lives.

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