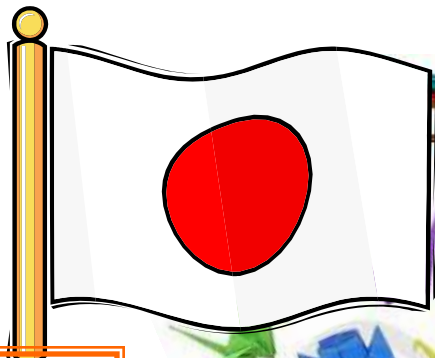


Introduction Japan

The Wesleyan Church works in Japan with a Japanese holiness denomination called Immanuel General Mission (IGM). IGM was started after WWII by Dr. David Tsutada. The Wesleyans as well as World Gospel Mission (WGM) assist the IGM church in areas **such as teaching at the Bible College, children's and youth ministries, worship, preaching, hospitality ministries, etc.** Currently, the Wesleyans have two long-term missionaries in Japan: they are working with the Nagoya Church and the Kyoto West Church

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Sports
Karate
Judo
Kendo
Sumo
Soccer
Baseball

Can you find pictures of each sport



Religion
Shinto
Buddhism
Other

Bonsai Tree



Japan has 200 volcanoes



You eat with chopsticks instead of silverware



Customs

- <You take off your shoes when entering a house and put on slippers.
- <Japanese greet by bowing
- <Rice is served at almost every meal
- <Only men are allowed to sit cross-legged on the floor
- <Last name is spoken before first name in introductions

Japan has many unique items.. Can you find them?

Sushi—raw fish

Kimono—traditional dress

Origami—paper art

Kanji—form of writing

Mt Fuji—volcanic mountain

Bonsai—small trees



Currency—Japanese Yen
82 Yen = 1 Dollar



Japan averages 1500 earthquakes per year



Japan



Children's Story

Kohei

Kohei was raised in a Christian home, with parents who became Christians when he was about 1 year old. It was when he was about 8 years old that Kohei first prayed to receive Christ. He remembers that at that time he fought with his brothers a lot, and his pastor pulled him aside to have a talk with him, encouraging him to apologize to them, as well as leading him to Christ. Soon after this he was baptized.

Looking back, Kohei admits that at the time he wanted to be a Christian because his parents were. Up until high school, he continued on in this way.

In university, however, Kohei began to drift from his faith and the church. He was really into cars, so he joined a car club at school. This kept him pretty busy, and he didn't go to church very often. After a while, though, he began to see the futility of living life for himself with no real purpose. It was negatively affecting his relationships with others as well. He was too busy to really connect with people on a deeper level.

This led him to start thinking more seriously about his life. He re-discovered a book he'd been given about 2 years prior about God's purposes for our lives, and finally it seemed relevant, so he started reading it. This helped him start to think more seriously about what he believed.

During the summer, Kohei went with a group from the Nagoya church to youth camp. He found it to be a really peaceful and relaxing time learning about God. This helped him grow in his faith and he became interested in learning even more. Up to this point in his life, he had a very "hard" image of Christianity, based on the strict way it was portrayed in his home church as a child. But at this time that image began to change, and he came to understand God's love and grace more clearly.

Soon after this he began attending church more regularly again, and considers this the time when he "really" became a Christian. He felt "relieved."

Memory Verse

Acts 17:24

The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands

Practice the verse with the children. Then, put three rows of three chairs in the center of the room, resembling a tic-tac-toe game. If you prefer, you can use paper plates or construction paper on the floor.

Divide the children into two teams. Ask one child from each team to recite the Bible verse. If they do so correctly, have them choose a space on the tic-tac-toe game and sit/stand there. Continue until one team wins a game.

Bible Lesson

Did you know that the people of Japan believe that there are 8 million gods? All over the country of Japan are beautiful shrines and temples that have been built to honor their gods.

As Christians, we believe and know that there is only _____ God. (one)

Did you know that the people of Japan believe that god is in everything, and so they worship the sun, trees, mountains, etc.; even their dead ancestors?

As Christians, we believe and know that God created everything, and worship only _____. (Him)

Read Acts 17:16-23

When Paul was in Athens, he was sad when he saw that the people had made statues that they worshipped. One of them was marked "To an Unknown God." Paul used this statue's title as a way to begin talking about the True God, who sent His Son Jesus to die for the sins of the world. The Athenians thought that Paul was talking about a new, strange foreign god. They had never heard the Good News of Jesus before.

It is the same in Japan. The people hear about Jesus, and think that he is a foreign god. However, they need to know that they do not have to worship rocks, or trees, or the sun, or the grandparents that died many years ago. They need to know that there is only one God, and He can save them from their sins and give them eternal life.

Read Exodus 20:4

The Bible tells us that we should not make _____ (idols). Ask the children if they know what an idol is. Let them give their thoughts. (An idol is something that takes the place of worshipping the True God. It might be a tree, or rock, or other people; or it could be a sport, the television, a famous celebrity, etc.)

The Bible tells us that we should only worship God; no one else and nothing else.

Rock, Paper, Scissors

In Japan, the most popular game is Rock, Paper, Scissors. They use it a lot more than we do as well to decide debates or who should go first.

At the beginning one person is selected to be it and stands in the center.

To start they all say in unison, "sai sho wa gun, jan ken pon .."

On the word 'jan' the person in the middle points at someone in the circle.

When they say the word 'pon' everyone throws out their hand signals.

Winners and losers are decided by what the person chosen does. This continues until one person is left who exchanges places with the person in the middle and the game begins again.

As always

Paper covers rock

Rock breaks scissors

Scissors cuts paper

Paper wins

Rock wins

Scissors wins



Game Time

Time for Prayer

- a. Pray for young Japanese people to answer the calling to full time ministry.
- b. Pray for those affected by the March 2011 earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster.
- c. Pray for the missionaries and relief groups working in the disaster areas.
- d. **Japan's population is 127 million** people. Less than 1% are Christians. Pray for the many **Japanese people who don't know Jesus**.
- e. Pray for more people around the world to respond to the great need for missionaries in Japan.

Activity

C
t
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y

Japanese fan.

Copy design of dragon that you will find in the resource section (p. 119) on sheet of paper.

Have student color in the design as desired.

Fold the page in accordion style.

Fold back the bottom one inch of paper.

Wrap a piece of tape around the folded area. You now have a small Japanese fan.

See sample below.

