

Discipleship Resources: Japanese

Part 1: Bible Translations, Websites, Books, Workbooks, Videos

GETTING A BIBLE

There are a few commonly used Bible translations in Japan. We recommend the *Shinkaiyaku (New Japanese Bible) 2017 version (NJB2017)*. This one is comparable to the English Standard Version (ESV) and the New American Standard Bible (NASB).

- **Bilingual Bible: NJB2017-ESV (バイリンガル聖書 新改訳2017-ESV)**
U.S.: <https://japanesechristianbookstore.com/product/bilingual-bible-njb2017-esv/>
Japan: https://www.wlpm.or.jp/en/pub_e/?sh_cd=106092
This is the most expensive, but it is an excellent option for a bilingual Bible. This has the NJB 2017 translation alongside of the ESV. (Bilingual: English/Japanese)
- **New Japanese Bible 2017, Middle Size (聖書新改訳2017中型スタンダード版 引照・注つき)**
U.S.: <https://japanesechristianbookstore.com/product/newjapanesebible2017middlesize/>
Japan: https://www.wlpm.or.jp/en/pub_e/?sh_cd=103401
This is the medium-sized NJB 2017 Bible. (Japanese only)
- **New Japanese Bible 2017, Small Print (聖書新改訳2017 小型スタンダード版 引照・注つき)**
U.S.: <https://japanesechristianbookstore.com/product/newjapanesebible2017small/>
Japan: https://www.wlpm.or.jp/en/pub_e/?sh_cd=102670
This is the small print NJB 2017 Bible. It is the least expensive. (Japanese only)
- **New Japanese Bible 2017, Large Print (聖書新改訳2017大型)**
U.S.: <https://japanesechristianbookstore.com/product/new-japanese-bible-large-print/>
Japan: https://www.wlpm.or.jp/en/pub_e/?sh_cd=115750
This is a large print version of the NJB 2017 Bible. (Japanese only)

THE BIBLE (PHONE APPS)

The Bible is available digitally through these apps.

- **The Bible App (<https://www.youversion.com/bible-app>)**
The Bible App provides digital and audio versions of the Bible. Topical devotionals and reading plans are also available. (Available in many languages)
- **Japanese Drama Bible (Audio & Written) (<https://graceandmercy.or.jp/app/>)**
This free app contains the text of the NJB 2017. It also contains audio, narrated by Japanese actors, and sound effects to enhance the learning experience. (Japanese only)

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BIBLE STUDIES

These workbooks, books, and PDFs are useful for small group Bible studies and in one-on-one discipleship relationships.

- [*Understanding Christianity: A 10-Week Course on Foundational Principles, 2nd Ed.*](#)
<https://www.crossculturaldiscipleship.com/books/>
This workbook study equips Bible teachers to walk Japanese students through the basics of Christianity in 10 sessions. (Bilingual: English/Japanese)
- [*First Steps: Investigating Christianity, by the Mustard Seed Network*](#)
<https://www.mustardseedjapan.com/firststeps>
This is a 5-part study that introduces the basics of Christianity. (Bilingual: English/Japanese)
- [*Next Steps, by the Mustard Seed Network*](#)
<https://www.mustardseedjapan.com/next-steps>
This is a 12-part study that helps Christians grow in their walk. (Bilingual: English/Japanese)

BOOKS

These Christian books are useful for discipleship.

- [*First Level: The Path to Reunion with God, by Second Level Ministry*](#)
<https://secondlevel.org/en/resources/>
This book discusses theological questions and topics from a Japanese cultural perspective. (Available in English and in Japanese)
- [*The Case for Christ, by Lee Strobel*](#)
A journalist set out to disprove Christian claims about Jesus, but when he examined all the facts, he concluded that the stories were true. He shares his personal journey to find Jesus, and the evidence that points to Christianity. (Available in English and in Japanese)
 - English only, US: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/0310345863>
 - English only, Japan: <https://www.amazon.co.jp/dp/0310345863>
 - Japanese only, U.S.: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/4264021839>
 - Japanese only, Japan: <https://www.amazon.co.jp/dp/4264021839>

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WEBSITES

These websites are useful for spiritual growth and discipleship. They are available in English, Japanese, and other languages.

- [The Bible Project](#)
The Bible Project made short videos to summarize each of the books of the Bible.
 - English: <https://bibleproject.com>
 - Japanese: <https://bibleproject.com/japanese/>
- [Mustard Seed Tokyo- Messages](https://www.mustardseedtokyo.com/sunday-teaching) (<https://www.mustardseedtokyo.com/sunday-teaching>)
This website has bilingual teaching about the books of the Bible, theological concepts, and other helpful and relevant topics.
- [Got Questions](https://www.gotquestions.org/international.html) (<https://www.gotquestions.org/international.html>)
This is a good source for asking spiritual questions. They provide thorough responses and biblical analysis on a variety of topics. (Available in English, Japanese, and other languages)
- [The Story Film](https://thestoryfilm.com) (<https://thestoryfilm.com>)
This is the gospel message in a short video. (Available in many languages)
 - English: <https://thestoryfilm.com/en>
 - Japanese: <https://thestoryfilm.com/watch/ja>
- [Two Ways to Live](https://matthiasmedia.info/2wtl/) (<https://matthiasmedia.info/2wtl/>)
This is the simple message of the gospel. (Available in many languages)
 - English: <https://matthiasmedia.info/2wtl/>
 - Japanese: <https://matthiasmedia.info/2wtl/japanese/>
- [Japanese Christian Resources](https://www.japanesechristian.org/) (<https://www.japanesechristian.org/>)
This site has a compilation of many great websites and resources available for discipleship.
- [Say Yes to Japan](https://www.sayyestoJapan.org/resources/) (<https://www.sayyestoJapan.org/resources/>)
This site references resources available in Japan.
- [The Cross-Cultural Discipleship \(CCD\) Website](https://www.crossculturaldiscipleship.com) (<https://www.crossculturaldiscipleship.com>)
The CCD website has links to resources for bilingual teaching and cross-cultural discipleship.
- [Focus on the Family \(“Family Forum Japan”\)](http://www.ffj.gr.jp/English/indexEng.html) (<http://www.ffj.gr.jp/English/indexEng.html>)
Focus on the Family (Family Forum) produces resources to support families, including books, articles, and broadcasts discussing marriage and parenting.

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ESL MINISTRY

These resources are helpful for churches with ESL outreach/ministry groups.

- [Free ESL Lessons](http://debbrammer.com/english-as-a-second-language/) (<http://debbrammer.com/english-as-a-second-language/>)
These lesson plans and handouts use Bible stories to teach English.

VIDEO

The following video content is useful for teaching.

- [The Gospel Through a Click \(GTAC\)](#)
GTAC produces short testimony and topical videos that are relatable for Japanese people. These address many cultural challenges. (Most are bilingual, Japanese/English)
 - YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@TheGospelThroughaClick>
 - GTAC Website: <https://gtac.jp/en/>
- [Harvest Time Ministries](#)
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQ19z6ZsfJHyF4rAvDewELJHdSeUmMreS>
These are 3-minute videos put together by a Japanese pastor. He answers questions about the Bible with wisdom, depth, and cultural insight. (Many of these have English subtitles)
- [Genesis: Paradise Lost](#) (<https://genesismovie.com/#top>)
This documentary provides scientific evidence to support the 6-day creation story, with excellent apologetics and film quality. (Japanese subtitles via on-demand streaming)
- [The Chosen \(TV Series\)](#) (<https://www.comeandseefoundation.org/watch>)
The Chosen depicts Bible stories in an engaging and personal way that helps viewers to connect more deeply with Jesus. (Japanese subtitles and audio available)