

RESOURCES (JAPANESE)

Part 1: Discipleship Resources

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 \(バイリンガル聖書 新改訳2017-ESV\)](#)
US: <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 bi-lingual Bible. This has the NJB 2017 translation alongside of the ESV. (Bilingual: English/Japanese)
- [New Japanese Bible 2017, Middle Size \(聖書新改訳2017中型スタンダード版 引照・注つき\)](#)
US: <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 \(聖書新改訳2017 小型スタンダード版 引照・注つき\)](#)
US: <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 \(聖書新改訳2017大型\)](#)
US: <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)

There are several phone apps that have the Bible available digitally. We recommend these:

- [The Bible App \(https://www.youversion.com/bible-app\)](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 \(Audio & Written\) \(https://graceandmercy.or.jp/app/\)](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/)
<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)
<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)
<https://www.mustardseedjapan.com/next-steps>
This is a 12-part study that helps Christians grow in their walk. (Bilingual: English/Japanese)

BOOKS

Here are some good, Christian books that are available in English and Japanese.

- [First Level: The Path to Reunion with God, by Second Level Ministry](https://secondlevel.org/en/resources/)
<https://secondlevel.org/en/resources/>
This book discusses theological questions and topics from a Japanese cultural perspective. This would be an excellent book for individual reading or group discussion. (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 version: <https://a.co/d/6wbXXp6>

>>Japanese only version: <https://a.co/d/gXywXGS>

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CHRISTIAN BOOKSTORES

These bookstores and publishing companies offer Japanese and bilingual resources.

- [Word of Life Press Ministries \(WLPM\)](https://www.wlpm.or.jp/) (<https://www.wlpm.or.jp/>)
There are many Japanese resources available here. (Japan)
- [Japanese Christian Bookstore](https://japanesechristianbookstore.com/) (<https://japanesechristianbookstore.com/>)
There are many Japanese and bilingual resources available here. (U.S.)
- [Multi-Language Media](https://multilanguagemedia.org/products/categories/japanese/) (<https://multilanguagemedia.org/products/categories/japanese/>)
Multi-Language Media, a ministry of CLC USA, provides Japanese resources. (U.S.)
- [Second Level Store](https://secondlevel.org/en/resources/) (<https://secondlevel.org/en/resources/>)
The Second Level Store offers some helpful discipleship resources. (Japan)

VIDEOS

These videos are easily accessible and useful for teaching.

- [The Bible Project- Japanese Channel](https://bibleproject.com/japanese/) (<https://bibleproject.com/japanese/>)
The Bible Project made short videos to summarize each of the books in the Bible.
- [The Gospel Through a Click \(GTAC\)](#)
YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@TheGospelThroughaClick>
GTAC Website: <https://gtac.jp/en/>
GTAC produces short testimony and topical videos that are relatable for Japanese people. These address many cultural challenges. Most are bilingual, Japanese/English.
- [Harvest Time Ministries](https://youtu.be/auDnKurWW34?si=KFo-eo_E9sXlwEPU) (https://youtu.be/auDnKurWW34?si=KFo-eo_E9sXlwEPU)
These are 3-minute videos put together by a Japanese pastor. He answers questions about the Bible with wisdom, depth, and cultural insight.
- [Genesis: Paradise Lost](https://genesismovie.com/#top) (<https://genesismovie.com/#top>)
This documentary provides scientific evidence to support the 6-day creation story along with vivid imagery. The apologetics and quality in this film are incredible and worth the purchase. (Japanese subtitles are available via the On-Demand Streaming option.)

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WEBSITES

Here are websites available in English, Japanese, and other languages. They are useful for individual research or cross-cultural discipleship.

- [Mustard Seed Tokyo- Messages](https://www.mustardseedtokyo.com/sunday-teaching) (<https://www.mustardseedtokyo.com/sunday-teaching>)
This website has many good messages focused on books of the Bible, theological concepts, and other helpful 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 in English, Japanese, and other languages.
- [The Story Film](https://thestoryfilm.com/watch/ja) (<https://thestoryfilm.com/watch/ja>)
This is the gospel message in a short video. (Available in English and in Japanese)
- [Two Ways to Live](https://matthiasmedia.info/2wtl/japanese/) (<https://matthiasmedia.info/2wtl/japanese/>)
This is the simple message of the gospel. (Available in English and in Japanese)
- [Japanese Christian Resources](https://www.japanesechristian.org/) (<https://www.japanesechristian.org/>)
This site has a compilation of many great websites and resources available in Japanese.
- [Say Yes to Japan](https://www.sayyestojapan.org/resources/) (<https://www.sayyestojapan.org/resources/>)
This site references resources available in Japan.
- [Cross-Cultural Discipleship \(CCD\)](https://www.crossculturaldiscipleship.com) (<https://www.crossculturaldiscipleship.com>)
The CCD website has compiled discipleship resources that are useful for bi-lingual and cross-cultural teaching.
- [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.

ESL MINISTRY

Here are some resources 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.

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WORSHIP MUSIC

The following are good sources of Christian worship music available in Japanese.

- [CCD YouTube Playlist: Japanese Christian Worship Songs](#)
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEkowm2LYFCvyudWAccXngpMctp9qaspz>
This is a playlist of Christian worship songs in Japanese. Most of them display lyrics.
- [4.5 Music](#)
YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn5ltbmLlvESx8MzK8mysEg>
Website: <https://www.4point5music.com>
This worship ministry, associated with Soma Church, shares traditional hymns and original worship songs with lyrics. These songs are moving, inspiring, and beautiful.

KIDS' MINISTRY

Here are some good resources for kids:

- [The Bible App for Kids](#) (<https://www.youversion.com/bible-app-for-kids>)
This interactive app uses an engaging format to teach kids Bible story basics. (Available in many languages.)
- [The Beginner's Bible: Timeless Children's Stories \(Bilingual: Japanese/English\)](#)
US: <https://japanesechristianbookstore.com/product/the-beginners-bible/>
Japan: <https://www.amazon.co.jp/-/en/dp/482060225X/>
This is a well-known, affordable Children's Bible. (Bilingual: Japanese/English)
- [The Jesus Storybook Bible, by Sally Lloyd-Jones \(Japanese version\)](#)
US: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/4264027500>
Japan: <https://www.amazon.co.jp/dp/4264027500/%20>
This is a well-known Children's Bible, translated into Japanese. The Japanese version is not currently in print, so the cost of existing copies is higher. English copies are also available.
- [My First Bible Stories, by Harumi & Caleb Boliver \(Bilingual: English/Japanese\)](#)
US: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0FZCXTG71>
Japan: <https://www.amazon.co.jp/dp/B0FZCXTG71>
This is a compilation of Children's Bible stories. (Bilingual: Japanese/English)

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Part 2: Resources for Church/Ministry Leaders

ORGANIZATIONS

These organizations provide unique resources and support to help kingdom laborers in Japan and around the world.

- [Reaching Japanese for Christ Network \(RJC�\)](https://rjcnetwork.org/) (<https://rjcnetwork.org/>)
RJC� has many resources to assist missionaries and ministries. They provide online training and webinars that often focus on evangelism, discipleship, and resources. They host conferences and events to help facilitate networking.
- [The RJC� Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/groups/24076595173/) (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/24076595173/>)
The RJC� Facebook page helps connect and equip those who are reaching out to the Japanese. That is a great place to find out about churches and resources in a particular area, or to ask questions.
- [The Mustard Seed Network](https://www.mustardseedjapan.com) (<https://www.mustardseedjapan.com>)
The Mustard Seed Network is a church planting organization in Japan that also has a wealth of publicly available, cross-cultural discipleship resources on their website.
- [Second Level Ministry](https://secondlevel.org/en/about/) (<https://secondlevel.org/en/about/>)
Second Level Ministry offers resources, from a Japanese perspective, to support the spiritual growth of Japanese Christians.
- [Japanese Christian Fellowship Network \(JCFN\)](https://jcfñ.org/) (<https://jcfñ.org/>)
JCFN encourages outreach to Japanese living abroad. They also help returnees transition back to Japan, by helping them getting connected with churches and other believers.
- [Japanese Evangelical Missionary Association \(JEMA\)](https://jema.org/) (<https://jema.org/>)
JEMA is a good place for missionaries in Japan to network and find resources.
- [The Gideons International- In Japan](https://www.gideons-jp.org/english) (<https://www.gideons-jp.org/english>)
The Gideons are a helpful resource for getting Bibles.
- [OMF \(Overseas Missionary Fellowship\) Japan](https://omf.org/east-asia/japan/) (<https://omf.org/east-asia/japan/>)
OMF is a global fellowship of Christians with a heart for East Asia. The OMF Japan site provides Japan-specific information, as well as opportunities for mobilization.

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COUNTRY REPORTS- JAPAN (CHRISTIAN)

These reports will help you learn more about the country, people, and spiritual conditions.

- [Joshua Project- Japan](https://www.joshuaproject.net/countries/ja) (<https://www.joshuaproject.net/countries/ja>)
Joshua Project provides information about the religious affiliation and unreached groups within the nation.
- [Operation World- Japan](http://www.operationworld.org/country/japa/owtext.html) (<http://www.operationworld.org/country/japa/owtext.html>)
Operation World provides statistics and information about the cultural and spiritual conditions in Japan, along with requests for prayer.
- [PrayerCast- Japan](https://prayercast.com/japan.html) (<https://prayercast.com/japan.html>)
PrayerCast is a Christian website that provides country information and prayer points.
- [BBC Country Profiles- Japan](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-14918801) (<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-14918801>)
BBC Country Profiles provide good, concise country reports. They are no longer kept up to date, but they are good for looking up maps, graphics, and timelines of historic events.
- [Encyclopedia Britannica- Japan](https://www.britannica.com/place/Japan) (<https://www.britannica.com/place/Japan>)
Encyclopedia Britannica provides up-to-date country reports. These are helpful for learning about the country, history, people, and culture of Japan.
- [Commisceo Global- Japan](https://www.commisceo-global.com/resources/country-guides/japan-guide)
<https://www.commisceo-global.com/resources/country-guides/japan-guide>
Commisceo Global provides familiarization with culture, customs and etiquette.
- [Operation Japan Prayer Guide, by Don Wright](https://www.amazon.com/Operation-Japan-Prayer-Guide-5th-Wright/dp/1702635775)
<https://www.amazon.com/Operation-Japan-Prayer-Guide-5th-Wright/dp/1702635775>
This handbook includes up-to-date information on each prefecture in Japan, with a system for praying through specific needs and issues throughout the nation.

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LANGUAGE LEARNING- JAPANESE

These websites will help you learn more about the language and culture of Japan.

- [Defense Language Institute \(DLI\)](https://www.dliflc.edu/elearning/) (<https://www.dliflc.edu/elearning/>)
The DLI website contains language learning software and cultural study resources, to include Headstart2, Rapport, Language Survival Kits, Cultural Orientation, and GLOSS.
- [Japanese Online](https://japanese-online.com) (<https://japanese-online.com>)
Japanese Online is a free language learning resource with helpful cultural tips.
- [Japanese Sticky Study](https://www.stickystudy.com/japanese.html) (<https://www.stickystudy.com/japanese.html>)
Japanese Sticky Study is helpful for learning and practicing Japanese kanji.

LEADER DEVELOPMENT

The following resources help equip those in ministry to the Japanese community.

- [RJC Webinar: Mentoring for Making Disciples Among Japanese, Mayumi Pohl](https://vimeo.com/335237051?fl=pl&fe=sh)
<https://vimeo.com/335237051?fl=pl&fe=sh>
Mayumi Pohl, from Second Level Ministry, discusses using a mentorship approach in discipleship among Japanese.
- [No Place Left- Japan](https://www.noplacelleftjapan.com/basic-training)
NoPlaceLeft- Japan: <https://www.noplacelleftjapan.com/basic-training>
NPL Disciple-Making Training Videos: <https://noplacelleft.net/four-fields/411-gospel-conversation-training/>
NoPlaceLeft is a movement that helps train and equip believers for disciple-making, evangelism, and church planting. They partner with local churches, ministries, and missionaries. They have training videos on their website.