

Family Guide

August 2022
Japan



*"Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance,
and the very ends of the earth as Your possession."*

— Psalm 2:8, New American Standard Bible 1995

Welcome to Japan!

Did you watch any of the Olympics last year? Japan did a marvelous job hosting them. Do you have a favorite sport from the summer Olympics? I like so many that I can't pick just one favorite, but I love watching track, swimming and gymnastics.



Japan is made up of a long chain of islands—6,852, to be exact! Only 260 of the islands have people living on them. From north to south, the chain of islands is over 1,500 miles long, which is longer than the West Coast of the United States.



Fun facts about Japan.

Tokyo's Tsukiji Fish Market—the largest fish market in the world—once auctioned a tuna for \$1.7 million!



Japan is home to a record 80,000 centenarians—people who have reached the age of 100. Over 28% of the population is 65 or older.



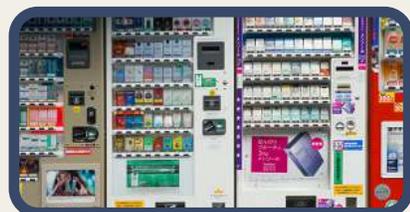
Origami, the art of folding paper, originated in Japan. Have you ever tried this art?



Japan's most famous mountain, Mount Fuji, is also an active volcano, and it reaches 12,388 feet high—that is really, really tall. It is over two miles tall. Find out how far it is to your local school or park. Is that more or less than two miles? Picture that straight up into the air!



Have you ever used a vending machine to get a snack or a soft drink? Japan has the highest amount of vending machines per person than any other country. Some reports say there is one vending machine for every 23 people. That's a lot.



Ready to pray for the people of Japan?

Our schedules usually change a lot in August. For many, schools start back up. That means getting up at a set time to get breakfast and be off to school. Often, there are other activities like sports or dance or family time.

It's important to keep making daily prayer time a priority. Our busy schedules with school, friends, and activities can easily crowd out our time with God. But reading the Bible and praying are activities that shouldn't change even as other activities start or stop.

Whether this is your first or eighth month joining us, we are happy you are here. Set a time that works for you and your family—it could be at dinner, bedtime or even at breakfast. Some of my friends call it “Jesus time” and they have it before bed every night.

Japan is the seventh largest of the 12 least reached countries we are praying for this year. It has around 126 million people. Even though Christianity has been present in the country for over 500 years, less than 2% of the population are followers of Christ.

Learn about Japan and pray one of the prayers listed for the current week. We give you one prayer per day for the whole month. Remember, prayer is simply talking with God. In this guide, we ask Him to work in specific ways so that everyone in Japan will have a chance to learn about Jesus and what He has done for them.

Your 2022 Prayer Partner,

Lucinda

Please email me, or have a parent email me, if you have any questions or want to share what you are learning about prayer. I'd love to hear from you! prayer@jesusfilm.org



01

Week 1: August 1-7, 2022

“The Lord is not slow in doing what He promised—the way some people understand slowness. But God is being patient with you. He does not want anyone to be lost. He wants everyone to change his heart and life.”

— 2 Peter 3:9, International Children’s Bible



Week 1 Prayers



> Only one person on earth has ever been perfect, never making mistakes or bad choices: Jesus. We humans can’t be perfect, no matter how hard we try. We need a perfect Savior who forgives us when we mess up and sin. Jesus loved us and willingly came to die for our mess-ups (sins). If we accept Jesus’ gift of forgiveness for all of our mess-ups—past, present and future—we can become God’s friend forever! Pray that all Japanese people realize they can’t be perfect but can choose to be forgiven.

> Pray that Japanese people who do not yet know Jesus would recognize Him for who He is and see their need for Him.

“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way. And I am the truth and the life. The only way to the Father is through me.’”
— John 14:6, ICB

> God made all people, starting with Adam and Eve. He made groups of people in different countries to each have unique characteristics, like the language they speak, the music they like, their customs and traditions, and unique physical features like skin color or hair color. He made the groups different from each other on purpose, and they are beautiful to God. Pray that people everywhere, including Japan, appreciate these differences, see all people as beautiful, and treat everyone with respect.

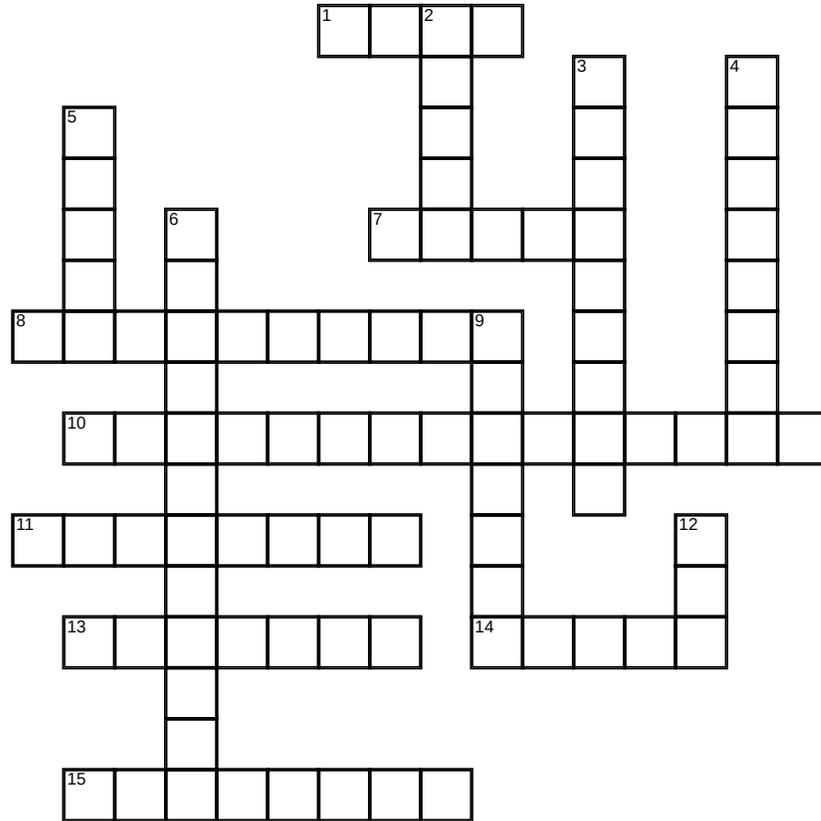
> Working hard at school is really important, but in Japan, some kids feel a lot of pressure to do well in school. Pray that Japanese families will help their children not feel pressured as they complete their schoolwork and work toward a future career.

> Anyone who genuinely asks Jesus to be their Savior is part of God’s big family. Pray for Japanese Christians to reach out in friendship and love to other members of God’s family in their city and country, so they can work together to bring the message of Jesus to those who haven’t heard it.

> Without a sail to catch the wind, a sailboat drifts in the water, going nowhere. That’s the way many Japanese young people feel—drifting, with no purpose for their life. They don’t know that having Jesus and His Spirit as their friend and guide is just what their heart is looking for. Pray that Japan’s young people will soon hear the message of Jesus and invite Him in.

> Many people in Japan are hardly open to hearing or reading about the gospel. They think it’s not for them. But it is! Pray that their hearts will become open to the message of Jesus.

Week 1 Activity: Japan Crossword



Across

- 1 This ancient Japanese sport is also the national sport
- 7 The country we are praying for this month
- 8 Active volcano and the tallest mountain in Japan
- 10 Beautiful and fragrant flowers of a particular tree common in Japan
- 11 The language spoken by 98% of the people in Japan
- 13 The art of folding paper
- 14 Pieces of seafood or vegetables on bite-sized portions of rice
- 15 The most popular sport in Japan

Down

- 2 Japanese graphic novels and comics
- 3 A religion that was started in Japan
- 4 A religion that started in India that is also commonly practiced in Japan
- 5 The capital city
- 6 People who have reached the age of 100 years old
- 9 A piece of land surrounded by water. Japan is made up of thousands of them!
- 12 The national fish

WORD LIST:

BASEBALL	ISLANDS	MANGA	SUMO
BUDDHISM	JAPAN	MOUNT_FUJI	SUSHI
CENTENARIANS	JAPANESE	ORIGAMI	TOKYO
CHERRY_BLOSSOMS	KOI	SHINTOISM	

02

Week 2: August 8-14, 2022

“Come to Me, all of you who are tired and have heavy loads. I will give you rest.”

— Matthew 11:28, ICB



Week 2 Prayers



> Sometimes conflicts happen between Christians. Differences can be shared respectfully, but God wants us to cooperate with one another to get God’s work done. The Holy Spirit, who lives inside God’s people, can help believers work through problems and conflict. Pray that Japanese Christians will ask the Spirit to help them solve conflicts and peacefully work together to honor our heavenly Father.

> In any challenging situation, people who walk with God have His Spirit’s power to be godly examples of kindness, peace, patience and love. Pray Jesus’ followers in Japan will grow in their love for one another and show the unreached that the Bible’s God is full of goodness and loves them, too.

> Some young people in Japan choose to spend almost all of their time alone instead of with other people, even their families. This can lead to them feeling isolated and extremely sad. They need God’s healing touch and salvation. Pray for God to give them a Christian mentor or friend who can help them grow and discover the purpose Jesus gives to all who follow Him.

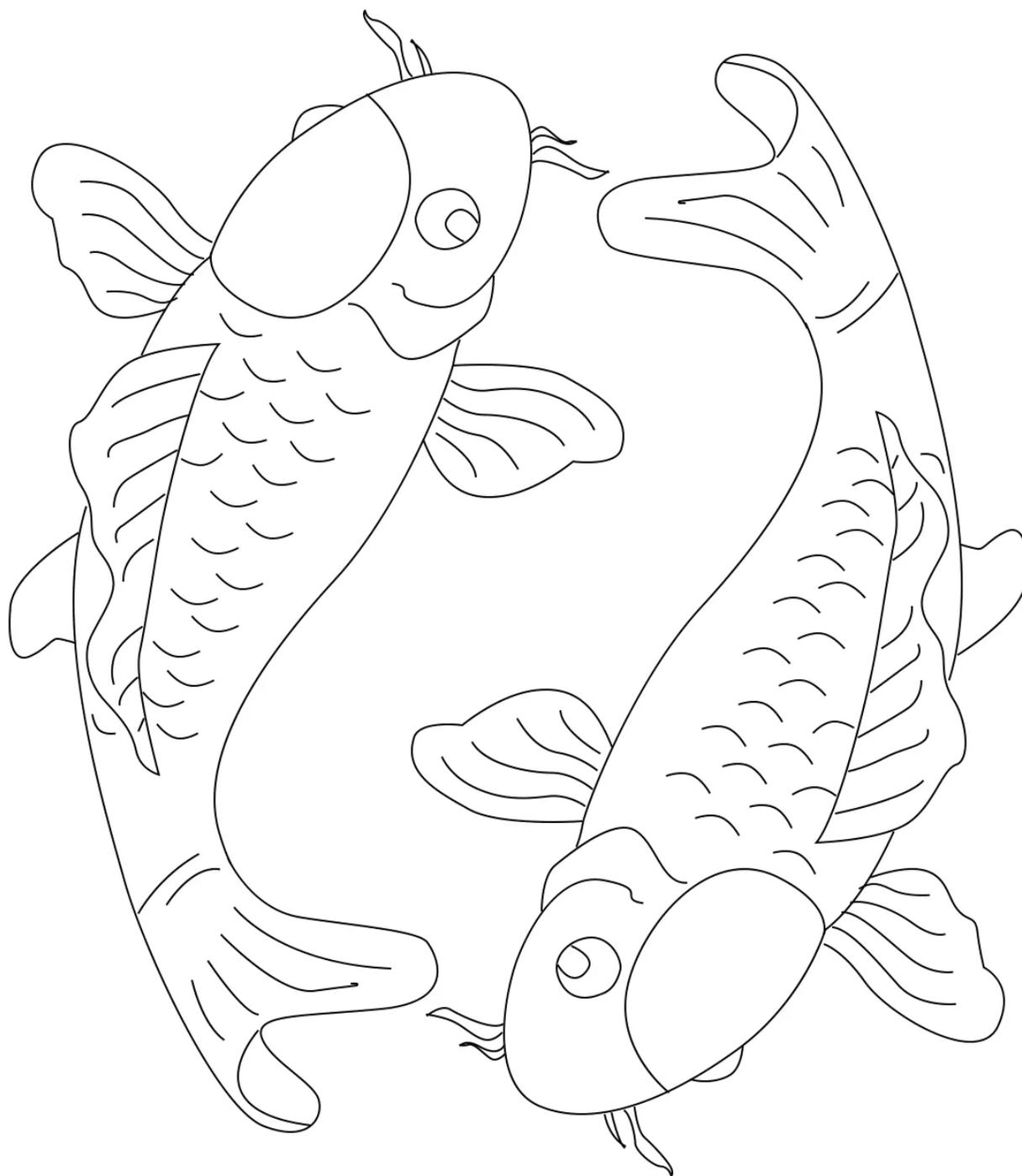
> Pray that the young people of Japan would come to see Jesus as trustworthy, someone in whom they can place their hopes for the future. Pray God would use them in big ways to help change the world.

> Using Scripture is great to pray for yourself, your family and friends, not just for people far away. Pray this for every Christian in Japan: *“You were raised from death with Christ. So aim at what is in heaven, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Think only about the things in heaven, not the things on earth”* (Colossians 3:1-2, ICB).

> The COVID-19 pandemic has caused Japan’s leaders to close its borders, so no one from outside the country is allowed in. Many people who want to visit or live in Japan cannot go there right now, including Christian workers who want to share the message of Jesus. Pray that the borders will soon be opened.

> There are hardly any Japanese people who think of Jesus as the one living and true God. Pray that the eyes of Japanese people would be opened to see that Jesus is both living and the only true way to God.

Week 2 Activity: Koi Coloring Page



03

Week 3: August 15–21, 2022

“For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son. God gave His Son so that whoever believes in Him may not be lost, but have eternal life.”

— John 3:16, ICB



Week 3 Prayers



- > COVID-19 has caused many people across Japan to lose their jobs, making it difficult for them to buy even the necessary things. Pray for churches, neighbors and Japan’s leaders to look for these hurting families to provide the help they need.
- > Pray that entire families come to know Jesus as their Savior. Pray that parents and kids will have loving, healthy relationships, even when disagreements come up. Pray that their love for each other and for God will help them work through their problems.
- > Many men in Japan have jobs that make it necessary for them to live in the cities where they work, far from their families. It can be hard for families to live apart, but leaning on Jesus can bring comfort and strength while they are away. Pray for whole families—moms, dads and kids—to follow Jesus and walk in His ways.
- > Students from Japan sometimes go to another country for their college studies. Pray that Japanese students who study in other countries would hear the message of Jesus and invite Him into their hearts.
- > Pray that Japanese people will come across truthful Jesus-focused messages that catch their interest while they use their phones to search for information.
- > The Bible teaches us that we have an enemy—the devil—who wants to keep Christians from trusting God. God wants us to stay close to Him and let Him fight for us. Pray God’s word for the Christians in Japan: *“Control yourselves and be careful! The devil is your enemy. And he goes around like a roaring lion looking for someone to eat. Refuse to give in to the devil. Stand strong in your faith. ...”* (1 Peter 5:8–9, ICB)
- > There is a type of art that is very popular in Japan called manga, which is often used in Japanese comic books. Pray for Christians to create manga art and books that are centered around the message of Jesus, and that many readers would learn about Jesus through manga.

Week 3 Activity: Word Search

Japan Word Search

S T T G W D W G E C Z G S D G
C H E R R Y B L O S S O M S J
V X X M A N G A T Q J C L O G
I W Y M O U N T F U J I N R S
C E N T E N A R I A N S O I H
A K D S X H D F U B Q K F G I
N F J I U J I O O U J J G A N
N Z F S I S Q Y W D H H B M T
D B Q L S A H Q A D E J A I O
C U E A U Q D I I H N A S A I
O S H N M P U T T I K P E S S
I I A D O Y E M I S O A B F M
J C Q S P K C G O M I N A M H
N K N T O K Y O X Y A W L M N
P V Z J A P A N E S E Q L X Q

WORD LIST:

BASEBALL

BUDDHISM

CENTENARIANS

CHERRYBLOSSOMS

ISLANDS

JAPAN

JAPANESE

KOI

MANGA

MOUNTFUJI

ORIGAMI

SHINTOISM

SUMO

SUSHI

TOKYO

“All the earth should worship the Lord. The whole world should fear Him.”

– Psalm 33:8, ICB



Week 4 Prayers



> There are Christian workers waiting for Japan’s closed borders to open so they can enter the country and start sharing the message of Jesus. Pray for God to give them patience while they wait, and for creative ways to use their computers and phones to connect with the people of Japan while still on the outside.

> God wants every person in Japan to understand what Jesus did for them. For this to happen, we need Christians to go tell them. Let’s pray for more Christian workers to go to Japan. Think on this verse: *“But before people can trust in the Lord for help, they must believe in Him. And before they can believe in the Lord, they must hear about Him. And for them to hear about the Lord, someone must tell them. And before someone can go and tell them, he must be sent. It is written, ‘How beautiful is the person who comes to bring good news!’”* (Romans 10:14–15, ICB).

> In all of Japan, there are very few pastors of Christian churches, and many of them are over age 55. Pray that God would soon raise up a new generation of younger church leaders that will lead their people wisely.

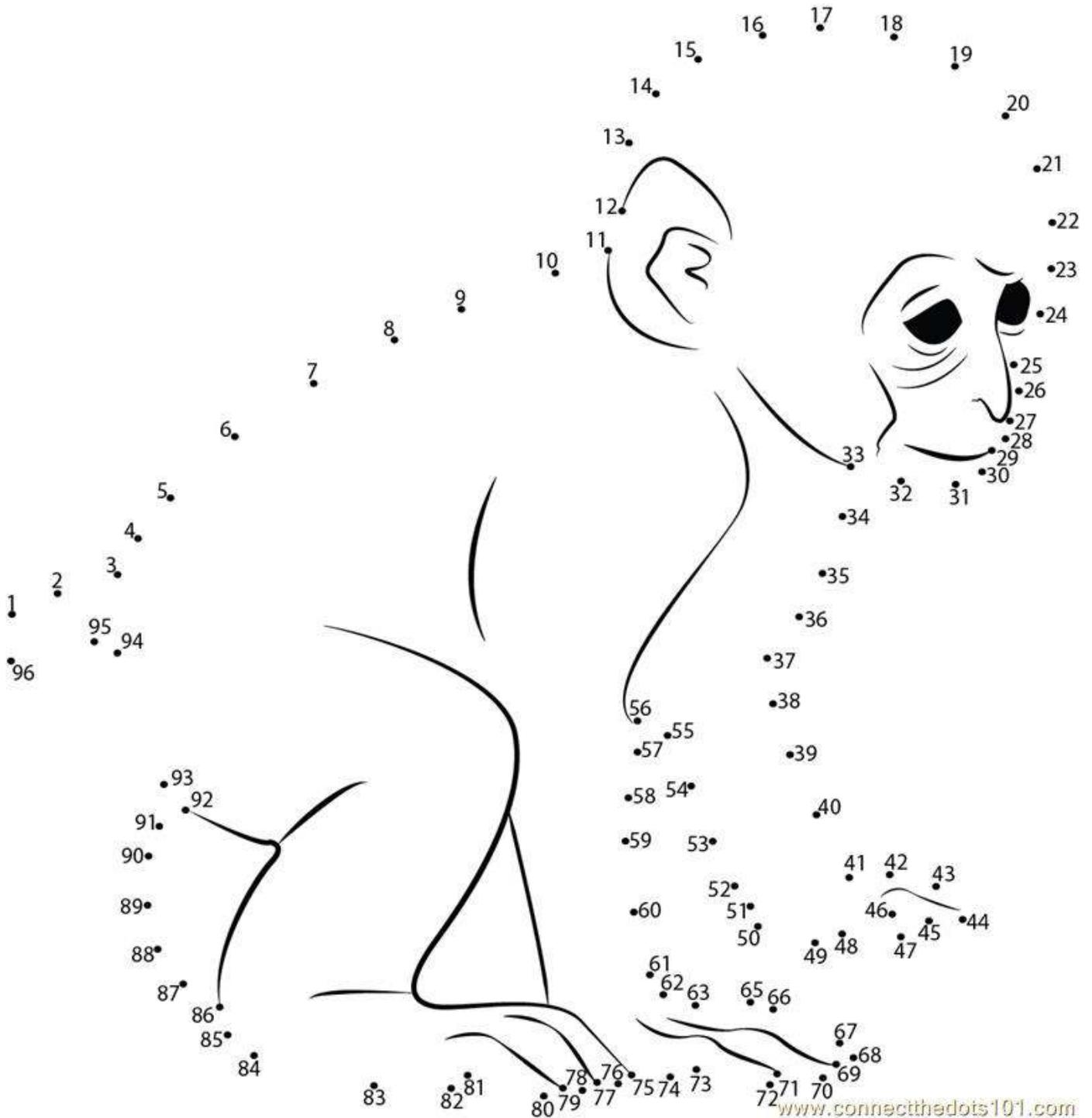
> Pray for Japanese people to make friends with followers of Jesus, so through friendship they may learn who Jesus really is and what it means to follow Him.

> God made human beings to worship Him, but gave them a choice to follow Him or not. Many know God through His son Jesus, but some have chosen to not follow Him. Instead, they worship idols made with their hands, which are lifeless and without power. Others choose to follow other leaders, and some choose only to do what they want to do. But every human being has a place in their heart that only the God of the Bible can fill, though they might not know it yet. Pray for the Japanese to hear the message of Jesus and choose to follow Him, so that they can worship Him now and forever.

> Moms and dads love their children, but they’d probably say taking care of them is a hard job. Moms and dads also love their own parents, and sometimes they have to take care of them too. In Japan, their parents could even live with them and their children. Pray for Japanese moms and dads who have the doubly-hard job of taking care of their kids and their parents.

> Pray for those in Japan who are sad and feel hopeless, that God would encourage them and bring them a wise friend to talk to.

Week 4 Activity: Connect the Dots



05

Week 5: August 29–31, 2022

Week 5 Prayers



> Many Japanese do not approve of people who become followers of Jesus, because it is different from what everyone else believes. Pray that God's Spirit would help Jesus followers be respectful to others while they faithfully walk in His ways.

> Japanese people love sports. Christian churches have used sporting events to attract people who don't yet believe in Jesus. Pray that people will come with hearts ready to know Jesus when the gospel is shared.

> Lord Jesus, we thank You for giving us a chance to pray for Japan each day in August. We believe You will continue Your work there until everyone has heard clearly about Jesus and been invited to follow Him. Someday we'll see how You answered our prayers. May heaven be filled with Japanese people who started to follow Jesus in part due to our prayers this month. We give You all honor and praise.

Resources

The Joshua Project has a tremendous amount of information about every country. This link will take you to Japan.

<https://joshuaproject.net/countries/JA>

PrayerCast has great prayer videos.

<https://www.prayercast.com/japan.html>

A great way to help someone learn more about Jesus is to share the *JESUS* film in their heart language. We have the film in over 1,900 languages on our website.

<https://www.jesusfilm.org/watch/jesus.html/english.html>

We also have multiple other films and short films available.

<https://www.jesusfilm.org/watch.html>

For more Jesus Film Project® prayer resources—including access to each month's family prayer guide—point your phone's camera app here:



The Jesus Film Project app is completely free and available on iOS and Android devices. Get the app now and start watching and sharing a huge library of Jesus-centered films.

