

A Taste of Asia

21 Devotional Adventures
for the Family

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Contents

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Mongolia

China

Kaifeng

Beijing

North Korea

South Korea

Japan

Wenzhou

Taiwan

India

Myanmar

The Mekong River

Laos

Vietnam

Cambodia

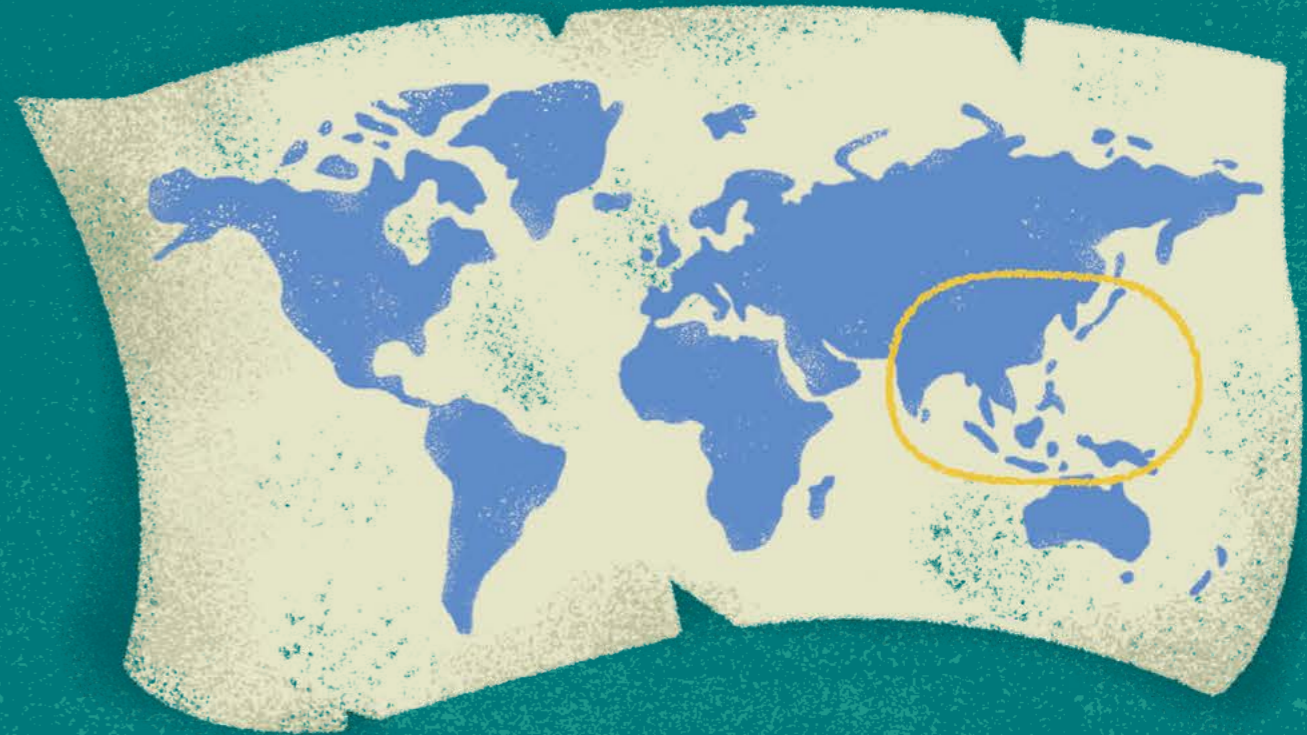
Philippines

Thailand

Brunei

Malaysia

Indonesia



Introduction

Hello! My name's Jon, and I'm so excited to be your guide on our prayer journey through East Asia. Along the way, we'll be learning to love Jesus and the world he made more and more.

My parents are from the UK, but I was born in Thailand – the best country in East Asia! We live there to tell people about Jesus. John 3:16 is my favourite bit of the Bible. It reminds me God has a big plan for the whole world to know Jesus.

Excitingly, he asks us to get involved in this plan! This book is all about one fantastic way we can do that without even leaving our house – by praying for East Asia. When we talk to God in prayer, asking that he would help people around the world to meet Jesus, he answers by making that happen.

In this book, we'll also be discovering more about East Asia. The map on pages 2 and 3 gives you an idea where in the world that is!

What's it like there?

In East Asia, millions of people speak thousands of different languages.

They slurp noodles, whirl chopsticks and grab handfuls of "sticky rice". Some live in massive cities with millions of people. Others live in tents and are the only people for miles around. Some cram onto old, slow buses on winding roads. Others ride high-speed trains that run exactly on time!

God loves these people and sent Jesus to save them, but many have never heard of Jesus. So followers of Jesus need to go and tell them about him.



How to use this book

Our adventure is split into 21 sections for you to do together as a family – although how long the journey takes is up to you! You could look at a section every day or just dip in and out whenever you like – there's no rush.

Each time, we start with a prayer, read a short bit of the Bible together and have a think about two questions on what we've just read. Then it's time to consult our map to see if we can find where we are going on the adventure this time! After that, we dive into an amazing story to help us explore East Asia and how God is meeting people there. We finish by talking to God about what we've discovered using a simple prayer. Last, there's a fascinating fact or two and, for many of the sections, a fun activity for everyone to get stuck into!

Are you ready?

Let the prayer adventure begin!

"Christians praying at home can do as much for the world as those working in far-off countries." – James Fraser

Words to remember

As we journey through Asia, we'll be using some words you may not have come across before:

- Missionaries – ordinary Christians who go around the world to tell people about Jesus.
- Unreached people group – a group of people who do not have enough local Christians to reach everyone around them with the good news of Jesus. To do that, they need the help of missionaries.



John 3:16

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son ..."



Welcome



Where are we?

Can you find the UK and China on the map?



Explore

I can't wait for my birthday party. I'm so excited that I've been planning what it will be like and who to invite for ages. Maybe you're the same?

Many Christians have got even more excited about the story we just read in Revelation 7. They've gone around the world to tell others about Jesus so they can be part of that great crowd too. We call these people "missionaries". One of the great missionaries was Hudson Taylor.

Hudson grew up in a Christian family in England many years ago. His parents told him about the millions of Chinese people who had never heard of Jesus. Hudson wanted to do something so the Chinese people could meet Jesus.

When he became an adult, Hudson sailed to China to tell them about Jesus! He became a missionary. However, after a while he realised he couldn't do this work by himself. More Christians needed to join in the adventure!

So Hudson started the China Inland Mission (CIM) in 1865. The CIM helped thousands of people hear about Jesus. It also inspired Christians around the world to pray for the Chinese people. Some sent members of their church there or even went themselves.

Thanks to adventurous Christians like Hudson, millions of people in China believe in Jesus today. However, there are still loads of people who have never heard of Jesus. That means the work of CIM is still continuing – but it is now called OMF International.



Father, thank you for sending Jesus to us. Help us love him more.

Revelation 7:9–10

"Then I looked, and there was a great number of people. There were so many people that no one could count them. They were from every nation, tribe, people, and language of the earth. They were all standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They wore white robes and had palm branches in their hands. They were shouting in a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.'"



Bible



To think about

1. Who will be in heaven worshipping the Lamb? (The Lamb is Jesus.)
2. Why is it good news that Jesus was sent for everyone?



Did you know?

It took Hudson and the first CIM missionaries four months to get to China on a ship. They were almost shipwrecked twice!



Prayer

Father, thank you that you want everyone to know you. Help us love people from every nation, just like you do.

The Lisu people

Southwest China



Father, thank you that we can talk to you in prayer and get to know you better. Help us do that now.



Luke 11:9

“So I tell you, continue to ask, and God will give to you. Continue to search, and you will find. Continue to knock, and the door will open for you.”



1. What does Jesus tell his followers to do when they pray?
2. How do Jesus' words encourage us to keep on praying?



The Lisu Christians have a five-day-long Christmas feast! More than 1,000 people from 50 villages come to the feast and each village brings a worship song or dance to share.



Can you find **Southwest China** on the map?



Last time we saw in Revelation 7 that a great number of people from every nation, tribe and people will one day worship Jesus in heaven. One of the tribes who will be there are the Lisu. Let me tell you how a British missionary called James helped them meet Jesus.

James lived with the Lisu tribe in the mountains of Southwest China. When he arrived, they followed their traditional religions. They'd never heard of Jesus before. Hardly anyone wanted to hear about him either, and the few people who listened to James soon lost interest.

James was sad and thought about giving up, but instead he wrote to his mum back in the UK. He asked her to get people praying for the Lisu.

James' mum and her friends prayed lots and lots. James sent them letters and maps so they could get to know the Lisu. They kept on praying.

A few years later, loads of Lisu families started believing in Jesus. Soon there were whole Lisu churches! Then these new Christians began sharing Jesus with other tribes nearby. Today, eight out of ten Lisu are Christians!

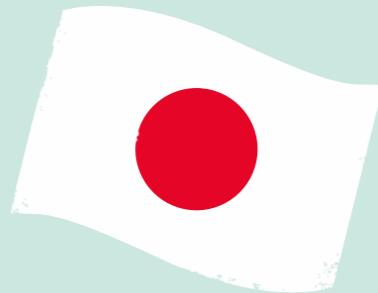
God worked through James and other missionaries, answering the prayers of the prayer group in the UK. Isn't it great that we can do the same? We can pray for people we've never met, in places we've never been to, and God answers to change their lives! Wow!



Father God, we pray for missionaries to be able to keep telling people about Jesus, even when it's hard. Help us encourage them by praying for them.



Japan



Where are we?

Can you find Japan on the map?



Explore

Let me tell you a story about a Japanese boy called Riku.

On weekday mornings, before Riku is up, his dad hurries off to the office. It is still dark then! His dad doesn't come home until after Riku's bedtime.

On Saturdays, his dad works again or sleeps. The Japanese work long hours. So Riku's favourite day is Sunday. That is the only day Dad, Mum and Riku are all together.

Jesus reminded people that they needed to find true rest with him. Sadly, few people in Japan have ever heard Jesus' words. Most of Japan's busy offices have no Christians working in them. So how will these busy people hear about Jesus' invitation?



Prayer

Father, thank you that Jesus tells us what we really need. Help us listen to him.



Bible

Matthew 11:28

"Come to me, all of you who are tired and have heavy loads. I will give you rest."



To think about

1. Who is Jesus inviting to come to him?
2. When people come to Jesus, what will they find?



Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you that you invite people to find rest in you. We pray for Japanese people, like Riku and his family, who are yet to hear of your love. Please help Christians think of helpful ways of introducing these busy people to you.



Did you know?

Most people in Japan are unlikely to meet a Christian in their lifetime. In fact, Japanese people are the second largest unreached people group in the world.

In Japan, slurping your noodles is considered a sign that you're enjoying the meal.



Activity

Slurping contest

Normally, you'll get told off for eating loudly. Not this time! Gather all the family for a slurping contest – who can slurp their noodles loudest? Remember, the louder you slurp, the more you're enjoying your food!

What you'll need

- Instant Asian noodles
- A bowl and chopsticks (or forks) for each person

What to do

1. Prepare the noodles following the instructions on the packet
2. Serve the noodles in the bowls
3. Check they are cool enough to eat
4. Now you are ready to begin. Take turns eating, remembering to slurp!
5. Decide who slurped loudest. They then have to eat the rest of the noodles – they obviously enjoyed them the most!

