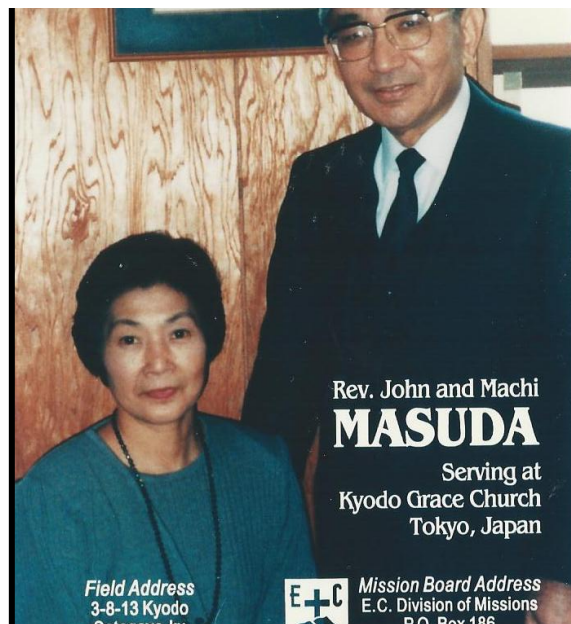


JAPAN

Lessons for Mission Minded Kids

Lesson 7

A servant is called



Japan

Lesson 7: A Servant is Called

Goals for Lesson 7:

- Students will be introduced to Rev. John and Machi Masuda, who began the E.C. Church movement in the country of Japan.
- Students will understand that even in the most spiritually empty places of the world, all of nature bears witness to God's majesty, and shines His light into the darkness.
- Students will be very familiar with Acts 17:24-25 and will be able to commit it to memory in a way that it will affect their lifelong worldview.

Verse for Japan:

"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. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else."
Acts 17:24-25 (NIV)

Before Class:

- Read through lesson and decide what you will use according to your age group and time allotted.
- Prepare the Masuda's EC Missionary Prayer Card from the lesson cover as a power point slide, or print it and back it with cardstock for stability.
- Prepare several pink cards of a size to cover a word on the verse poster. You should have 8-10 cards, or one for each of your students. Prepare small dots of sticky tack for the back of each card.
- Make a sample of each of the origami shapes and decide which you will use for your class. Make copies of directions and prepare square origami papers in various colors, according to what you will need.
- Read through the Prayer Pops activity and prepare as needed. Plan to use an area in a hallway or open space where there is room to move.
- Make copies of the coloring page and collect colored pencils if you will use it in class.

Lesson Plan:

- Open your time together with a welcome, announcements and a brief prayer. (5 min.)
- Place the verse poster where everyone can see it. The blue and green cards from Lessons 3 and 4 should still be in place. Review the verse once together, saying “and” and “the” when you come to the appropriate spaces. Ask for a volunteer to come and cover any word they want with one of the pink cards you prepared. Read the verse aloud together, remembering all of the covered words. Ask for another volunteer to cover another word, and review the verse again with this word missing. Continue until everyone has had a turn, or until interest wanes, but don’t drag it out too long. (8-10 min.)
- Read or tell the story part of the lesson, discussing or explaining as necessary. (10-15 min.)
- Remind students that origami is a very popular form of art in Japan. Show them the sample origami fish and whale you made. Lay out instruction sheets and prepared origami squares. Help students to follow the directions to create their own origami animals. Some younger students may have difficulty, but will be delighted to see the fish or whale emerge at the end. Assign adult helpers or older children to help the younger ones. (20-25 min.)
- Move to a more active area, and use the Prayer Pops activity to take turns praying for the people of Japan. (15-20 min.)
- Use the coloring page to finish your time or send home to complete later. (5-10 min.)

Lesson 7 Story: A Servant is Called

The end of WWII was a devastating time for the country of Japan. Much of their urban development on their island country had been destroyed, and their government was under reconstruction as well. America and other countries were helping them to rebuild, and Christian missionaries had come into the country to help the people and teach them about a Living God who cares about them personally. For the first time, Japan was allowing freedom of religion, and the emperor, who had always claimed to be a god himself, was becoming only a symbolic figure in the new government structure.

It was during this time that a young teenage boy named John Masuda went to a meeting one summer night. Christian missionaries were leading Christian hymns and reading from the Bible. John went forward to speak to the missionaries after the meeting, and they answered his questions and prayed with him. That night, John invited Jesus Christ to take over his life.

As John read the little New Testament the missionaries had given him, he kept coming back to Mark 1:17, where Jesus seemed to be talking to him, saying, "Come follow me and I will make you a fisher of men". John felt such a strong call to serve Jesus with his life, that when he finished high school, he enrolled in a Bible Institute in Japan. His father was very angry at John's decision, and disowned him, withdrawing all financial support. This made further education seem almost impossible. John didn't know what to do, but God knew the plans He had for John.

During this time, John met and fell in love with a young lady who was the daughter of a Japanese Christian pastor. John and Machi were engaged and planned to seek an education before they would marry.

One day in 1953, John was on his way to a Youth for Christ meeting in Tokyo. On his way, he saw an American lady lost in the train station. He offered to help her and found out that she was going to the same meeting. During the train ride, John told the lady about his desire to serve Christ, and she revealed to him that she worked for a Christian organization that had sent her to Tokyo to find a worthy young Japanese person to sponsor for an education in the United States. After the meetings were over, this lady took John to the US embassy and became his sponsor.

John arrived at Houghton College in New York on New Year's Day in 1954. He had only \$5 in his pocket, and no winter clothing for the cold New York weather. Soon many people helped out, and John was able to complete his education at Houghton. While at Houghton, John became close friends with two brothers, Ron and John Miller, whose home church was Seibert EC Church in Allentown, PA. Ron went on to be an EC pastor after graduation, and his brother John went on to be an EC missionary. Through his friendship with Ron and John, Seibert EC Church became John Masuda's home church.

Machi was able to receive sponsorship to attend Azusa University in California, and upon graduation, she and John were married in the summer of 1957. Both attended Asbury Seminary, and then John went on for further training at Westminster Theological Seminary. While they were living in Allentown, they had a daughter and named her Ruth.

Soon they knew that God was asking them to return to their own country to teach their people about the One True God. They applied for missionary status with the EC Church and in 1962, they returned to Japan to plant an EC Church there. **(Show the Masuda's EC Missionary Prayer Card)** They began their work by teaching conversational English classes out of their home. The Japanese people were anxious to learn English, as it was fast becoming the primary business language of the world, and the Japanese were quickly rising out of the devastation of the past.

John and Machi began inviting their students to stay for Bible classes, and soon their small group began to outgrow their tiny home. They moved into numerous rented facilities, each one a little larger, until finally in 1974, they were able to build and dedicate their own church building. They called it Kyodo Megumi Church, because megumi means "grace" in Japanese. Each member realized that it was because of the Grace of God that they were able to gather freely in their own building and share His Love with the Japanese people all around them. A small group of EC Leaders from the United States was able to be there and participate in that dedication.

You can see that even through the dark days after WWII, God was at work in Japan. He miraculously called John Masuda to be His missionary, and provided for a good education and a strong connection to the EC Church, who could provide the support and encouragement the new little group of Christians would need. Even though only 1% of all the people in Japan are Christians, God's presence is evident in the hearts and lives of His people and in all of nature that continually bears witness to the majesty of the Creator.

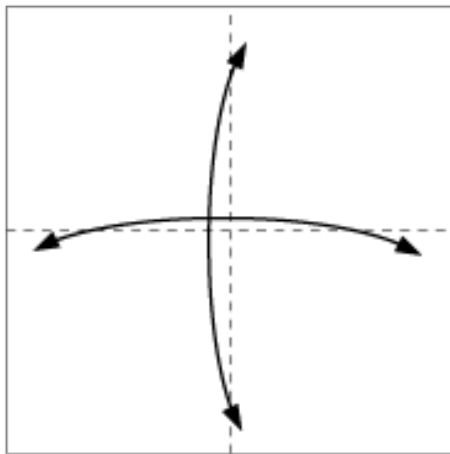
Even after 40 years, Kyodo Grace EC Church is still a strong Christian witness in their area. In the next lesson we will learn about the other Japanese EC Churches, and the things that hold the Japanese people back from wanting to accept Christianity. Let's pray that the

Christians in Japan would be bold and courageous in sharing their faith and in following Christ each day.

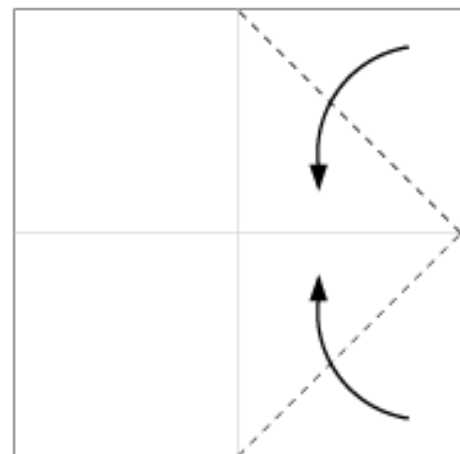
Prayer Pops

Preparation: Make copies of the prayer cards on regular colored paper and cut them out. Roll the squares up into a tube and slide each tube into the neck of an un-blown balloon. Right before class, blow up each balloon and tie it, keeping all of them together in a box or bag. Plan to have one balloon for each student in your class, plus a couple of extras. Tie a rope or string to the backs of two chairs and stretch it across your open space (about waist level). Collect two beach-sized towels.

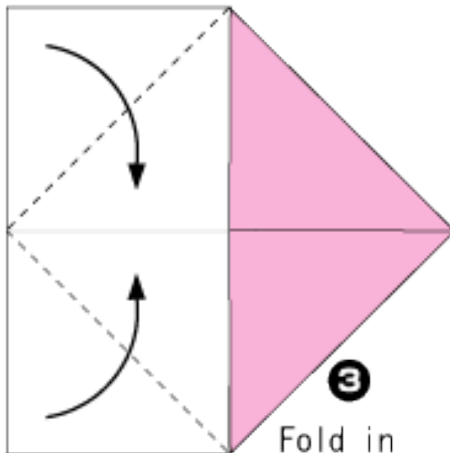
Activity: Divide the class into two teams. Each team forms on opposite sides of the rope, holding their beach towel around one long and two short sides. The long empty side of the towel should be close to the rope in the middle of the space. Count your students, and toss one less balloon onto the towels than there are students. The students will toss all of the balloons back and forth over the rope, using the towels. Balloons will fall off and float other directions quickly. As soon as all of the balloons are on the floor, teams will drop their towel and run to get a balloon. There will be one student left without a balloon. That student will choose one balloon that was not in play from your box or bag and sit on the floor beside you holding their balloon. All other students will place the balloon they collected back onto their team towel, and you will randomly take one out of play for the next round. Play will resume, with one player being eliminated each time. If a balloon breaks, collect it and the prayer slip inside and replace it with one from your bag. Continue as long as desired or until there are too few players to adequately hold the towels. Make sure each student has a balloon and sit together in a circle. Each student in turn will pop their balloon and pray for the item listed on their prayer card.



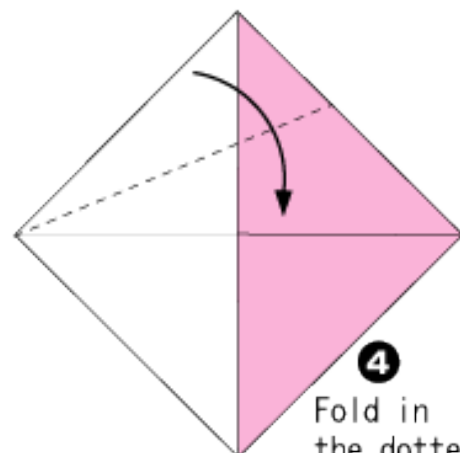
1 Fold in half twice to make creases and fold back



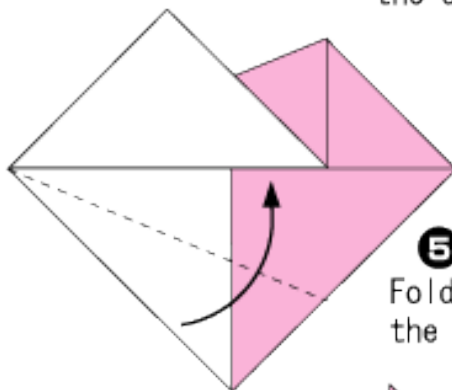
2 Fold in the dotted line



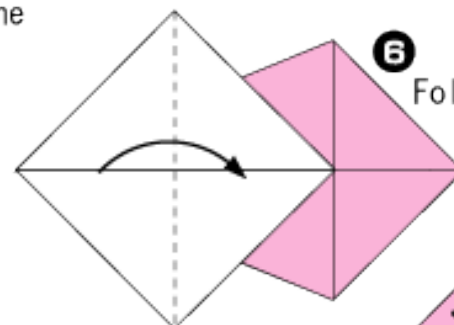
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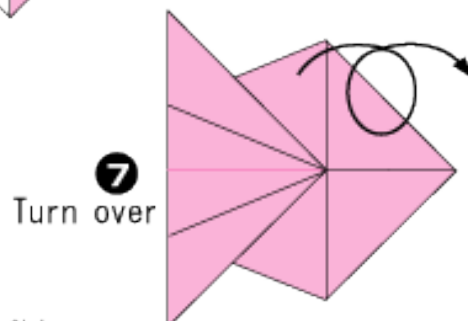
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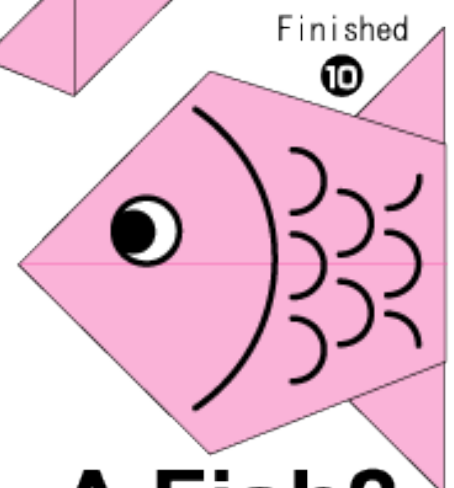
5 Fold in the dotted line



6 Fold in half



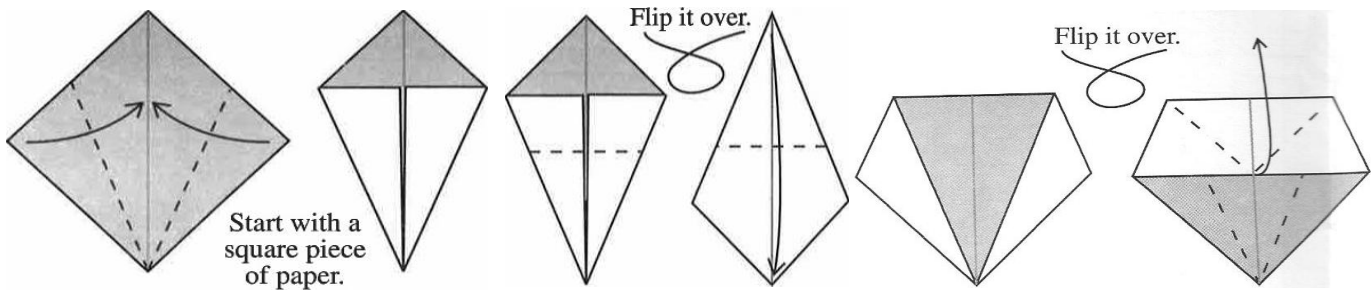
7 Turn over



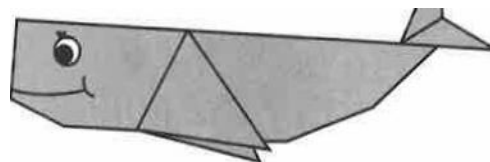
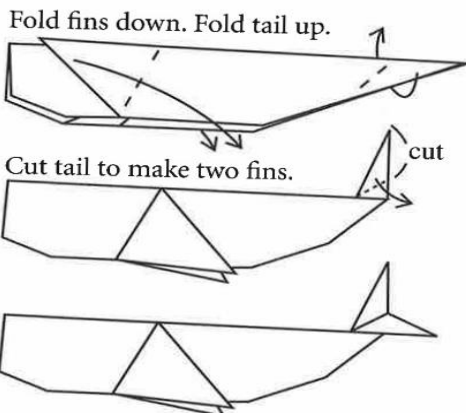
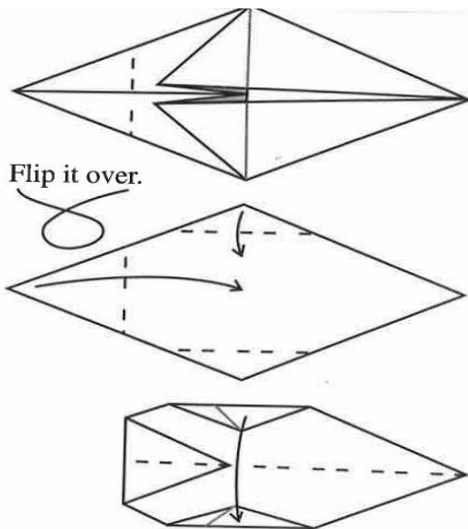
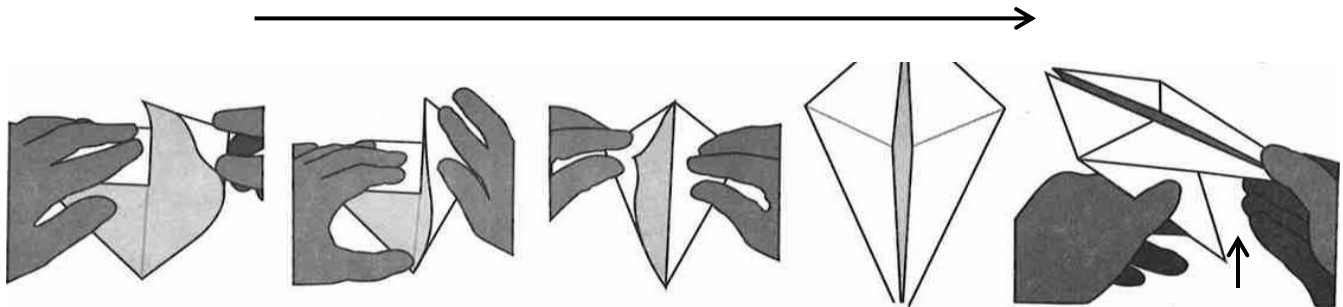
10 Finished

A Fish2

Create a Paper Whale



Partially open the flaps and fold them down as shown. Partially open the flaps as shown.



ORIGAMI is Japanese in origin
Oru means "to fold," and
Kami (gami) means "paper."



Ashikaga Period (1338–1573)

The ceremonial costume worn by this court lady is comprised of many silk robes which have been layered.

Each robe has very wide sleeves; the bow at her waist has long, flowing ends which trail to the floor.