



JAPAN

A FILM AND PRAYER GUIDE

A MINISTRY EFFORT OF
MOVINGWORKS®

HOW IT WORKS: GROUP PRAYER ---

You and your group will pray for approximately one hour about three topics: Salvation, Spiritual Growth, and Evangelism. Each topic includes a brief description, short film, and prayer suggestions.

You can screen the films for your group through Youtube on a computer, smart TV, or app-enabled device (i.e. Apple TV). Search for "Moving Works" on Youtube, select our channel, and select our "The Japanese Film Series" playlist.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- 01** Prepare for your group by previewing this Leader Prayer Guide, which you will read aloud to your group.
- 02** For each topic, we've offered two film options to watch. As you prepare, select which film you want to share with your group.
- 03** Before your group meets, share our Participant Prayer Guide, which your group will use as a reference during prayer.
- 04** When your group meets, give a brief introduction and itinerary for your time of prayer. You will then read the leader guide aloud to your group to direct them in your time of prayer.

INTRODUCTION

Imagine never hearing the name of Jesus. Imagine never hearing the truth of God's word. Imagine never being cared for by a local church family. Right now, for 99.5% of the 127 million Japanese people, this is their reality. And this is why we pray.

PRAYER TOPIC 1: SALVATION

The Japanese people are kind, hospitable, and beautifully made in the image of God. However, living in a culture with few acceptable ways to express anger or sadness, many Japanese people hide their personal struggles in daily life and eventually become discouraged or isolated. Loneliness and depression are considered epidemics in the nation of Japan, with over 21,000 people committing suicide every year. Alongside these challenges, substance abuse and high divorce rates expose a deep suffering that grips this nation. Yet, faith in Christ can bring true hope and freedom from this despair, as you will see in the first short film.

Choose a film to watch: *Collision* or *Open The Door*

John 8:12 says, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* Reflecting on what you've seen, and as the Holy Spirit leads, pray for God's Kingdom of light to come to Japan using the following suggestions:

- *Pray that the love of God displayed in Christ Jesus would be known.*
- *Pray for deliverance from depression, shame, and other works of the enemy.*
- *Pray for the Spirit's conviction of sin and that many would repent and believe in Christ.*

PRAYER TOPIC 2: SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The Japanese people highly esteem success and achievement, especially as it brings honor to your family or community. However, many feel crushed by the weight of these expectations and struggle with feelings of shame, both in themselves and in their relationships. But, when people come to love and follow Jesus, everything changes. Identity is no longer rooted in success or failure but in the undying love of a Heavenly Father. And those who have received the Gospel with joy are transformed from the inside out, as you will see in the next film.

Choose a film to watch: *I Am Alive* or *Beloved*

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” Reflecting on what you’ve seen, and as the Holy Spirit leads, pray for an outpouring of spiritual growth using the following suggestions:

- *Pray that the Japanese people would walk in their new identity in Christ.*
- *Pray they would be transformed by reading the Bible and spending time with God in prayer.*
- *Pray that Japanese Christians would joyfully serve and thrive in a local church.*

PRAYER TOPIC 3: EVANGELISM ---

According to research, the Japanese people are one of the largest unreached people groups in the world. For every 200 people there is only one Christian, and for those who come to faith, the path of following Jesus can be difficult. Many are disowned from their families when they choose to follow Christ and get baptized. Additionally, societal norms make it hard for believers to share the Gospel freely where they live and work. Yet, God has not forgotten Japan. He is actively calling more people to Himself and working through them to share the love of Christ with others, as you will see in the final film.

Choose a film to watch: *Love One Another* or *The Key*

Matthew 9:37-38 says, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” Reflecting on what you’ve seen, and as Jesus commanded, pray earnestly for laborers of the harvest in Japan using the following suggestions:

- *Pray that both Japanese and non-Japanese people would make disciples in Japan.*
- *Pray for their boldness and joy in proclaiming the Gospel.*
- *Pray for unity in the Church, so it can be a great light in the nation.*

CONCLUSION: NEXT STEPS ---

Thank you for taking time to pray for Japan, but it doesn't have to end here. Consider some additional ways that you can serve Japan:

- *Learn more by checking out our Resource Guide below.*
- *Pray for Japan in your daily life.*
- *Host a Japan prayer gathering with others.*

RESOURCE GUIDE

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

The Joshua Project: <https://joshuaproject.net/countries/JA>

God Reports: <http://blog.godreports.com/country/?countrycode=jp&joshua=ja>

IMB article on suicide: <https://www.imb.org/2016/10/27/70-deaths-day-japans-endemic-suicide-problem/>