Bonus Activities

All Ages

Try a Japanese Treat: Provide Pocky (chocolate coated biscuit sticks), Hi-Chew (Japanese chewy fruit flavored candy) or gummy bears. Encourage children to try one of these Japanese snacks. Talk about various popular Japanese snacks (refer to this for more information: www.byfood.com/blog/culture/japanese-snacks). Talk about how each culture has different snacks and flavors that are popular. Ask children about snacks that are popular in your state or community.

All Ages

Hear a Worship Song: Gather a video device and access the following video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=sF-lpfqlyVA&list=PL7N8-ZChFapxa-MNRDiwyjviUFz7OObKz&index=2 . Tell children that they will watch a Japanese version of the English worship song, "What a Beautiful Name." (You can find the English version here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQWFzMvCfLE&list=RDnQWFzMvCfLE&start_radio=1.)

Talk about how when Kanazawa Baptist Church and Kanazawa International Baptist Church meet for worship, half of the service is in Japanese and half in English. When they sing, half of the verses are sung in Japanese and half in English.

Older Children

Play "Would You Rather?" Access game questions at this link: https://thefamilydinnerproject.org/fun_content/would-you-rather/ Using the prompts, ask children to choose which they would rather have or do. Tell children that Kanazawa Baptist Church (the Japanese congregation) and Kanazawa International Baptist Church (the English congregation) played a game of "Would You Rather?" in English and Japanese after their bilingual worship service to help them get to know one another better.

Pathlight

www.cbf.net/pathlight

CBF's *Pathlight* curriculum helps children explore the Good News of Jesus through stories, scripture and activities.

cbf

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Pathlight

Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk. **Psalm 119:105 (CEV)**

Theme Overview

Carson and Laura Foushee are CBF field personnel in Kanazawa, Japan. They work with Kanazawa Baptist Church and their Japanese worship service as well as Kanazawa International Baptist Church and their English worship service. This session focuses on the theme of translating the love of God.

Bible Verse

Acts 2:1–6

On the day of Pentecost all the Lord's followers were together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from heaven like the sound of a mighty wind! It filled the house where they were meeting. Then they saw what looked like fiery tongues moving in all directions, and a tongue came and settled on each person there. The Holy Spirit took control of everyone, and they began speaking whatever languages the Spirit let them speak. Many religious Jews from every country in the world were living in Jerusalem. And when they heard this noise, a crowd gathered. But they were surprised, because they were hearing everything in their own languages.

Session Outline

Prepare

- Make copies of the Student Handout.
- Review the Story and Bible Verse.

Welcome

- Greet students as they arrive.
- **Ask**: "How do you learn more about other cultures?"

Engage

- Distribute the Student Handout.
- Read and discuss the Bible Verse.
- Work on the Handout Activity.
- Transition to Story Time.

Share

- Tell the Story, "Translating the Love of God in Worship."
- Share the photo and caption.
- Discuss the Story and pray.

Conclude

- Lead students in Bonus Activities as time permits.

Translating the Love of God in Worship

"Welcome to worship today," Rev. Laura Foushee, CBF field personnel, said as she began her sermon. "Worship looks and sounds much different than we are used to. After more than 10 years of worshiping separately, today Kanazawa Baptist and Kanazawa International Baptist churches are worshiping together in our own languages. It has been awkward at times, with some singing in Japanese and some in English, and there have been words that each of us have missed in the other language, but it is wonderful to worship together. We all share a common love for God, and now we are sharing that together in this nearly full sanctuary. We heard familiar songs in different languages this morning, and we have begun forming connections in this wonderful place that we all call home. It isn't always easy, and it requires us to be a bit uncomfortable, but this space is important. Trying something different with each other so that we can build connections strengthens our friendships as Christians and strengthens the kingdom of God. We are grateful for time to spend together worshiping God in this place that is so important to each of us. Whether you have been coming to Kanazawa Baptist your whole life or whether you are brand new to Kanazawa International Baptist, you play a vital role in these churches. We have gathered to worship and share our love for God. And while we may not understand all the words that are spoken today, we can all worship God together."

Discussion and Prayer ✱

- **Ask**: How did worship look different for Kanazawa Baptist and Kanazawa International Baptist churches?
- **Ask**: Why did they gather together for worship?
- **Ask**: How can we help others who speak a different language or who worship differently than we do feel welcome at our church?
- **Say**: Kanazawa Baptist and Kanazawa International Baptist churches gathered together for worship. Part of the worship service was in Japanese and part of it was in English. Parts of the songs they sang were in English and parts of them were in Japanese. Although everyone didn't always understand the words that were being spoken and sung, they were still worshiping together. God's Kingdom is made up of Christians from all different places who speak many different languages. By worshiping together, they learned more about one another and were reminded that God's love is for everyone. They also helped each other feel welcome. We can help others who are different from us, who speak a different language, worship differently or act differently from us feel welcome at our church by getting to know them. When we learn more about someone's culture, language and who they are, we learn about our similarities and differences. We build connections and develop friendships. And in doing so, we make the kingdom of God stronger.
- **Pray**: Dear God, thank you for people who were willing to be a bit uncomfortable so that everyone could worship together. Help us to have the courage to learn more about people who seem very different from us. Help us to share your great love with everyone we meet. Amen.

Carson and Laura Foushee

Carson and Laura Foushee are CBF field personnel in Kanazawa, Japan.

STUDENT HANDOUT
MAY 17, 2026

Pathlight

Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk. Psalm 119:105 (CEV)

Learn About

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Solve the Emoji Puzzle

Guess the emojis and see if you can solve the puzzle to learn more about how Kanazawa Baptist and Kanazawa International Baptist churches worshiped together.

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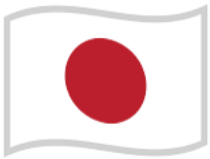

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(Answer: For each song during worship, half of the words (verses) are sung in Japanese and half in English.)