



# The Bible Reaches Asia

**Big Idea:** God transforms people in Asia when Christians show Jesus' love to them.

#7

**Missionary Focus:** Hudson Taylor and Joanne Shetler

## Students Will:

### Know

- Hudson Taylor was greatly used of God to reach people for God in China's inland.
- Joanne Shetler was a farm girl who became a missionary to the Philippines.
- Asia is the largest continent with the most people.
- *New Testament Structure & Authors:* The Apostle Paul sent nine letters to guide churches.

### Feel

- Excitement about the concept of becoming a missionary.
- Inspired by Hudson Taylor's faith.
- Awed at the sheer number of people in the world.
- Grief that so many people in Asia are separated from a relationship with God.

### Do

- Create a star with the names of friends they would like to bring to Jesus.
- Participate in a world population object lesson.
- Pray for the needs of the Asian people.
- Identify how God might want to use them.



## Pray for Wisdom

*Lord, Asia may seem like a long way away to me, but it is so close to You and Your heart. Give me the eyes of faith that see beyond geographical boundaries to Your transcendent love for people in need of You everywhere.*

*Also, give me insights into how I might communicate with children who You have been preparing to send into the world to share Your Gospel. Give me a sensitivity to where they are presently at and help me to inspire a vision for the future in them. In the name of Jesus who paid the price, amen.*

## Lesson Summary

Though most of the Bible was written in Asia (Paul wrote many of his letters from Europe), centuries passed before any large-scale effort was made to introduce God's Word to the multitudes who inhabited the world's most populated continent. The geographic and cultural barriers that divided East and west politically were also hindrances to missionary activity. The challenge to reach Asia with the Gospel has always been, and still is, an enormous task.

This lesson is the first of six that take a look at the lives of missionaries who dedicated their lives to spreading the Good News to the ends of the earth. In this lesson, students will be introduced to two inspiring individuals.

Hudson Taylor was a gifted man who turned his back on this world and all that it offered so that he could follow God's leading to China. More than a century later, his life remains an example of faith that inspires Christians around the globe.

Joanne Shetler was a shy farm girl who caught a vision to translate the Bible for the Balangao people in the Philippines.



## Sing with Joy

### Special Songs

Two songs have been created to reinforce the learner targets for this unit. Lyrics and music are printed in this Teacher's Guide.

- *Treasure Expedition* (Mark Chase, 1998) Theme song for Level 2—motivates students to treasure the Bible and read it regularly.
- *God's Great, Wonderful Word* (Mark Chase, 1999) Theme song for Unit B—challenges students to share the Good News about Jesus with others.

# The Bible Reaches Asia



## ANIMALS OF ASIA

Cross out the animal that does not belong.



## FACTS ABOUT ASIA

- \* Asia is the largest continent in land area. From east to west it reaches 5,000 miles!
- \* Jesus was born in Asia. He also died and rose again in Asia. In fact, most of the Bible stories took place in Asia!

they are ready to say the verse correctly by themselves. (At first you might allow the students to read every other word.)

### Alternate Passage:

Psalm 19:7-14 (learned through the entire unit).

## Pray for Power

*Pray* that God will fill the hearts of the children with the gratitude that He has provided a way in Jesus—that He has not left us without a way.



## Spark Interest

*You will need:* a world globe, two, four-cup measuring cups, one filled with four cups of sand.

Tell students that there are six continents on which people live. Define “continent” as a large area of land. As you slowly turn the globe, point to each continent, stopping at Asia. Describe Asia as the largest continent in the world. It has the tallest mountains, the lowest valleys, and the most people. Since God wants the Good News about Jesus to reach all the people of the earth, Asia is very important!

Put one grain of sand on your fingertip. Ask them to pretend that one grain of sand is a thousand people. Help them understand how many a thousand is by comparing it to the size of your church or school. (You might say, “Picture everybody sitting in the same room at the same time. Now picture five sanctuaries full of that many people. Pretend that it takes that many people to make one grain of sand.”) Now hold up the four-cup measuring cup filled with sand. Explain that this represents all the people in the world. Tell them that the empty measuring cup represents Asia. Ask students how many people they think live

*Talk about Asia and the people who live there.*

*Have fun deciding which animal doesn't belong in an Asian setting.*

## Memorize Bible Verse

Use your favorite translation to teach and rehearse:

**Topic:** Know Jesus

**Reference:** Philippians 3:8

**Suggested Memory Activity:**

Partner Trade Off

Pair up the students. After they have had the opportunity to practice the new memory verse, have them recite the verse in this manner: The first student says the first word, the second the second word, the first the third word, the second the fourth word, etc. until the whole verse is recited. Then have the other student go first. Allow them time to practice until

in Asia. Begin to pour sand into the empty measuring cup, instructing students to tell you to stop when they think you've reached the number of people who live in Asia. Keep pouring until the cup representing Asia reaches the two and one-half cup mark. When you set the measuring cups down beside each other, point out that there are more people in Asia than the rest of the entire world all put together. More than a third of these live in China alone!

### Explore Scripture

You will need a world globe.

Have a volunteer try to find Asia on the globe. Locate England (Hudson Taylor's home) and China (his mission field). Read or tell in your own words this story of Hudson Taylor:

In England about 150 years ago lived a teenage boy named Hudson Taylor. He was smart and hard-working. Sometimes even teachers would ask Hudson to help them with math problems! Many people expected him to study medicine and become a doctor. Hudson knew that if he kept working and studying, he could become very rich someday. The grown-ups who knew him, including his Christian parents, believed that Hudson had a very bright future. What more could a boy his age hope for?

While the idea of earning lots of money is exciting to many people, it wasn't to Hudson. Something was bothering him. His parents had told him about the millions of people in the world who didn't know Jesus. Hudson remembered that when he was only four years old he used to say, "I'm going to be a missionary and go to China!" Now, thirteen years later, he wondered about his life. Did God create him just so he could have fun and earn as much money as he could? No wonder he was unhappy! He had been spending so much time doing what he wanted that he forgot that he was created to do what God wanted him to do.

Help students find Isaiah 6:8. Describe Isaiah's vision. Explain that when Isaiah saw the Lord, he



## CHINA

Hudson Taylor decided not to become a doctor in England. Instead, God called him to serve people in China.



Whenever Hudson needed money for missionary work, he would tell only God. Why?

- He believed that God would take care of his needs.
- He didn't think that anyone would want to help him.
- He wanted to tell others that he needed money, but he was too busy.

Do you think that this was a good idea? yes

Why or why not? God is the one who provides.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- \* While sailing to China, Hudson Taylor faced bullets, robbers, and storms.
- \* Many Chinese people worship their ancestors instead of God.

## PHILIPPINES

Joanne Shetler wanted to be a farmer, but God had a different plan.

She followed God's plan, and many mountain people in the Philippines came to know Jesus.

They were so glad she came to them! She was glad, too.



After sharing Hudson Taylor's and Joanne Shetler's stories, talk about other people who serve God in Asia.

felt terrible because he was sinful. After taking away Isaiah's sin, God asked a question. Read Isaiah 6:8. Hudson Taylor knew this verse. He felt just like Isaiah. One day while he was praying, Hudson knew that Jesus had taken his sin away, too. Hudson's heart told the Lord, "Here I am. Send me!" At that moment, Hudson Taylor knew

that God was sending him as a missionary to China.

There were many difficulties that Hudson had to face as a missionary to China. Sometimes he got sick. How would he get enough money to do all God wanted him to do? Hudson learned that he could trust God to provide everything that he needed. He decided never to tell another

## PRAY FOR ASIA!

The needs of Asian people are very great. Here are some ways you can pray for them.

- \* Many people follow false religions.  
Pray that these people will welcome Christian missionaries.
- \* Many people are mistreated because they are Christians.  
Pray that God will give Christians strength and that those who mistreat them will come to know Jesus, too.
- \* Bibles are needed in many languages.  
Pray that more Christians will become Bible translators and that others will help get Bibles to the people of Asia.



What difference can one person make when there are so many people? A big difference! Many Bible stories tell how God did a miracle using something little. What did God use to...

- \* feed 5,000 people (John 6:9)? 5 loaves + 2 fish
- \* defeat an army (1 Samuel 17:50)? slings and stones
- \* heal a blind man's eyes (John 9:11)? mud

How do you think God might want to use you?

be a friend and witness to others

**Know Jesus**  
Philippians 3:8



and help them complete the information about Hudson Taylor.

To prepare the students for the next missionary story, call their attention to a globe and locate the Philippines (a large group of islands southeast of China). Read or tell the story of Joanne Shetler and use the sidebar on page 26 to review the story.

A little farm girl sat on the side of a hill with her dog and watched the sun come up. Everything looked so beautiful in the first light of the morning. She daydreamed of owning a big farmhouse of her own. To Joanne Shetler, living her whole life on a farm would be the perfect life.

Joanne was shy. She really liked people, but she didn't always feel comfortable around them. Her farm dresses seemed so plain and out of place at school. She never really knew how to act in front of her classmates. And because there were always chores to do, she would hurry home right after school.

One Sunday a missionary came to speak at Joanne's church. The missionary told about places in the world where there were no missionaries. Right away Joanne knew she wanted to be a missionary, but she had many questions. How could God use her? What if she wouldn't make a good missionary? How would she know what to say to people? And what about the farmhouse she'd always dreamed of owning? Even with these questions and fears, Joanne told God she was willing to become a missionary.

For several years Joanne studied and prepared herself to become a missionary. She began learning how to translate the Bible into another language. One day the shy farm girl stepped onto an airplane and flew to the Philippines. There she lived in the mountains among a group of people who had no Bible in their language. Over the years Joanne translated the New Testament in the Balangao language. It wasn't easy. She experienced many difficulties, including a helicopter crash that almost killed her. But God did many miracles, and finally her

*Discuss Asia's prayer needs and then spend some time bringing those requests before the Lord. Help students realize that God can use them to make a big difference in the world!*

person that he needed money. He would only tell God. Day after day, without ever being sure where his money would come from next, Hudson just kept trusting God. God took Hudson to places in China where the Gospel had never been before. This was the beginning of the China Inland Mission. By the end of Hudson Taylor's life the China Inland Mission had 825

missionaries working at 300 stations all over China. Thousands became Christians. Instead of spending his life making money, Hudson Taylor made disciples.

Direct students' attention to student workbook page 25 and do the animal activity before going over the Facts About Asia section. Then have them turn to page 26

translation was finished. Before Joanne brought the Good News to their area, the Balangao people knew nothing about Jesus. Soon the Word of God transformed them. Today there are many Balangao Christians serving God because a shy farm girl said “yes!” to God.

### Inspire Action


Direct students to page 27 of their workbooks and take a few moments to discuss Asia’s prayer needs as a class. Before doing HeartBeat, call attention to the measuring cups with sand in them. Tell students to touch the sand with their fingertips so that each person is holding just a few grains. Have students look at the sand they are holding, this time pretending that each grain represents one person. Ask them to imagine each one feeling hunger, pain, and cold. Imagine them wishing they had friends, needing a Savior, etc. Stress that although no one person can reach all the people, God can use all His people to each reach some. What would happen if thousands of Christians each put their fingers in the cup? Allow time for students to answer the questions in HeartBeat.

### Pray for Life-Change

Share again with the children the steps of faith taken by Hudson Taylor and Joanne Shetler. Remind them that these missionaries were once children just like them—and one day they responded to God’s call to go.

**Pray** for the billions of people in Asia, that God, who calls each person by name, would work mightily to bring His message to new regions where people are still waiting to hear about Jesus. Remember China, India, and Indonesia as the most populous countries in Asia.

**Pray** with your students, that they would see the rich opportunity to invest themselves in carrying the life-giving message of the Gospel to the peoples of Asia and the world. Pray for open



**Explore More**

✓ I have read Daniel 7.

In Daniel’s dream, he saw four (7:2-3):

\_\_\_ cities    ✓ winds    ✓ great beasts    \_\_\_ kings


The first great beast was like a lion, but had the wings of an eagle (7:4).


The third beast looked like a leopard with four (7:6):

✓ heads    \_\_\_ paws    ✓ wings    \_\_\_ teeth

The fourth beast had ten horns and was very powerful (7:7).

**TRUE / FALSE** In his dream, Daniel saw someone who was more powerful than any of the beasts (7:13-14).





**N.T. Structure & Authors**

The Apostle Paul sent 9 *Letters to Churches*.

These letters help to guide Churches.


(Say the name of each book and the person who wrote it aloud.)

**Author Key**

★ = name of book and author is the same

L = written by Luke

P = written by Paul



28

Encourage students to complete this page before the next lesson.

hearts to respond as God calls and leads.

**Pray** for the personal requests of students. Encourage children to voice their prayer concerns. Be sure to pray for each one.

### N.T. Structure & Authors

This section will help your students understand how the New Testament books fit together. They will also identify who wrote each New Testament book.



## 1. Snack Idea

(10-15 minutes)

To celebrate Asia, serve rice or sweetened glutinous rice with chopsticks. You may also supplement with fortune/proverbs cookies. If you do this, train the children in the difference between a fortune (a trust in chance) and a proverb (a godly principle to be followed).

## 2. Asian Guest

(35-45 minutes)

Invite a guest from Asia to come and share with your class. Before the person comes, have the students prepare questions to ask. Have your guest share from his or her own personal experience in Asia (whichever country he or she is from). Ask him or her to demonstrate the language he or she speaks and talk about the national foods, customs, music, etc. from his or her country.

(Alternative: Have a missionary from Asia visit and share.)

## 3. "Bamboo in Winter" Video

(50-60 minutes)

Watch the Overseas Missionary Fellowship video or film "Bamboo in Winter." This dramatization captures what it is like living as a Christian in China's countryside under the oppression of communist rule.

If your library or Christian bookstore does not have it, it can be ordered from ChristianFilms.com at (828) 891-2767 or go to [www.christianfilms.com](http://www.christianfilms.com).

## 4. Letter Across the World

(25-30 minutes)

As a class, write a letter to a missionary working in Asia. Let the children write what they want to say under your direction. They can share about themselves and what they've been learning; also they can ask questions about the missionary and his or her ministry. And if they are prepared to respond, they can also ask what needs the missionary has. The teacher may want to include an accompanying letter for clarification and explanation. Send the letter and watch for the response. (Ideally this activity is combined with an adopt-a-missionary project.)

## 5. "Word Like a River" Video

(30-40 minutes)

Order the video from Wycliffe Bible Translators at (800) 222-1495. Depending on the age of your students, you might want to accompany the video with sharing and discussion between segments. Or simply show the portion of most interest to your students.

## 6. "Pop Beads or Pearls" Video

(28 minutes)

This video is Joanne Shetler's animated testimony about God's work among the Balangao people of the Philippines.

## Teacher Tip

Keep in mind various learning styles and engage the styles in the *Extend Learning* activities. Some kids are analytic, while others are global or intuitive. Some like to use their hands and move around; others want to see vivid visual images; still others like to use their ears and listen. Some kids like to work alone, while others thrive on working in groups. Mix it up! Give the various styles opportunity to bloom and flourish.

## Supply Checklist

### General Supplies:

- Bibles, student workbooks
- pencils, pens, markers
- paper, glue, tape
- "Hidden People" Profiles

### Spark Interest

- a world globe
- two four-cup measuring cups, one filled with sand