

OMF SERMON COURSE 説教コース

Materials are available on request from the OMF Language Advisor at la@omf.or.jp

This course was completely revised early in 2003 at the OMF Japanese Language Center. It is divided into Part 1 and Part 2. It is devised for our school where students have 2 hours a day with one teacher and one hour a day with a second. For this course to be really effective you will need an experienced teacher. However, some parts of it can be used for self study or can be adapted according to your circumstances. Part 1 contains a number of activities for students to work on with their 2 hour teacher and Part 2 is content for the class with the one hour teacher. Please understand that the explanation below is for those who are studying at the OMF Japanese Language Center.

Part 1 consists of the following:

a. An outline of the course in Japanese.

b. Short speeches.

The student chooses a topic from the suggested list and prepares to talk on this topic orally for up to 10 minutes in class. The teacher records this to provide material for discussion and if necessary, correction. This is a demanding activity but its aim is to give practice in speaking continuously on a particular topic for a short time without depending on a written script. It is the kind of thing you might be asked to do, or need to do in 'real life'. For e.g., in the middle of a Bible study or discussion with a seeker or church member you will find yourself having to explain something which you have not prepared for. We trust that practicing in class will give you the confidence to respond easily in 'real life' as well as introducing the vocabulary needed for certain topics.

c. 表現法演習 (ひょうげんほうえんしゅう)

This consists of practice of 100 patterns or phrases that are often used in talks or sermons. These are listed first in Japanese and then in English. Then there are sample sentences showing how they are used followed by a worksheet. As the list is long and you may feel overwhelmed, try to make your own sentences using the phrases as much as you can. Also listen out for them in the sermons you hear preached, asking yourself, for example, how the preacher moves from one point to another, or how he introduces a Bible text. You will be sure to hear many of the expressions as you listen out for them and even discover a few new ones too.

d. メッセージ作成演習 (さくせいえんしゅう)

This consists of 4 pages of language points to be aware of in preparing messages.

e. Grammar practice

This includes practice of 'wa' and 'ga', honorifics and other pattern practice that the teacher considers necessary.

f. Actual preparation of talks.

Our aim is that each student should prepare 2 two minute talks, 1 ten minute talk and 1 20-30 minute one. The number of tasks possible will depend on what time the JLCer has available and also on what opportunities he or she has to speak elsewhere. The talk might be for a cooking class, for example. The sermon course can be adapted according to the individual's needs, opportunities for ministry while at JLC and future ministry.

g. 聖書おはなしカード

These cards will sometimes be used by the teacher as prompts for oral practice and also a little light relief!

h. Key word cards

Similarly to the above, these cards will be used as prompts for oral practice. For example, the words 'Red sea' or 'Egypt' would lead to the story of Moses and so on.

Part 2 (one hour class)

a. Bible reading

This involves reading a few verses of John's gospel each day in class to get used to reading aloud. Tapes and a vocabulary list are available and if possible, the student should listen to the audio files as often as possible in his own time.

b. Prayer

This involves sharing prayer requests with your teacher and praying for each other. As this is intended as language practice your teacher may want to correct you after you have finished praying or introduce vocabulary you need. Some students feel this makes the praying unreal or artificial and this may be so but it is the best way to become at ease in praying in Japanese.

c. Reading and understanding messages 1-4. (5 is optional).

Having read the above you will be aware that the sermon course is a very demanding one. It involves a lot of oral practice where you no longer have the security of a text book or a written script. It may be hard sometimes to see exactly where you are going and to feel that you are making progress as it is not simply a matter of progressing through units in a textbook. Sometimes you may feel communicating is more important than accuracy but your teacher is wanting to correct you as well. You and your teacher will have to work together to get a balance between the two. It will be hard work but it is an important stage to go through if you are to achieve the ultimate goal of being able to communicate freely on a variety of Christian topics.