

Christian DVDS in language study

Watch the Christian bookshops (CLC and Life Centre) for new Christian DVDs that you can lend to Japanese friends but that can also be used for language learning. Remember that DVDs like the old videos can be paused and replayed as many times as you need when you miss something or fail to understand. You may have access to the older style videos and a video player in your churches. If so, there is likely to be material there that could be very useful to you in language study. One example is the Visual Bible series (Life Kiga) which follows the actual text of the Bible.

Below is an introduction to a DVD that is essential cultural background for the missionary as well as good for intermediate plus learners of Japanese.

DVD: 葬儀と日本の宗教行事 DVD 'Soogi' and 'Nihon no Shuukyoo gyooji'



出版社 Publisher	ライフ企画 Life Kiga
税込価格 Price	5,040 円
商品番号 Product Number	G023400002

a. 'Soogi'

This is 48 minutes long and divided into 4 parts. The first 2 are only 15 minutes long altogether and for language study form excellent 'bites' of language to focus on. **Part 1 deals with the Christian view of life and death - 'kiristokyoo no shiseikan'.** The explanation is clear and concise. **Part 2 :What a Christian should do when attending a Buddhist funeral** is also very helpful in explaining the meaning of expressions and actions used by non Christians. For example, 'kooden' (the giving of money), 'juzu' (beads) and 'shooko' (the offering of incense) are explained and what the Christian should do in their place. Expressions like 'goshuushoosama deshita' are explained ('shuu' = 'rei' and shoo' = 'itamu' implying a negative attitude to death) and suggestions as to what may be said instead are made. These practical tips are all shown through role play and filming of actual funerals. **Part 3** deals with a Christian funeral in practice - **kirisutokyoo soogi no jissai.** **Part 4** deals with details such as cost of various aspects of a funeral and how a Christian from a non Christian family can prepare a will stating his or her wish to have a Christian funeral.

b. 'Nihon no Shuukyoo Gyooji'

This is also excellent for language study (with the exception of the summary at the end of parts 2-4) including reading practice. The cultural understanding of the background of various Japanese customs explained in the DVD is a must for Christian missionaries though the content is aimed at Japanese Christians as in 'Soogi'. It is only 40 minutes long but a lot of important information is conveyed in this short time.

The DVD is built round skits of a Japanese couple and Rebecca, a missionary kid born in Japan. The husband has only just become a Christian and is still struggling to relate his faith to various aspects of Japanese life. His wife has been a Christian for 15 years. Giving various explanations are Pastor Katsumoto Masami, author of 'Nihon no Shuukyoo Gyooji ni doo taioo suru ka' and Pastor Matsuoka, a former Buddhist priest. The video consists of 5 parts - again helpful 'bites' for language study. **Part 1 Nihon no Shuukyoo Gyooji no Tokushoku** divides practices into 2 kinds - 'nenkangyooji' and 'jinseigirei', and then draws out 4 principles for evaluating whether these customs are idolatrous or not. The 4 principles are:

1. Examining the origin of the custom
2. Deciding if the custom still has religious overtones today
3. Considering the custom in the light of the Bible
4. Asking oneself whether or not it is a good testimony to follow a particular custom even if it doesn't have religious overtones

Various examples are examined in the light of these principles. **Part 2** deals with New Year customs, **Part 3** with Obon, **Part 4** with Birth and Growth (eg hana matsuri, shichi go san etc) and **Part 5** with Buddhist Hooji.

The language level of this DVD is obviously not for beginners but as the content covers issues which come up frequently in church planting situations it is well worth any time spent on it.