

Our ESL Class

So far we have created one 12-week Bible ESL class, with another 5-week Christmas class in the works. After that, we will begin writing material for next year. It's a fairly monumental task, requiring 2-3 days' work per lesson. Our students have been enjoying experiencing the English language and Western culture on a multi-sensory level. Each lesson is made up of 6 pages. We have shown about 1/3 of a lesson here.

Each lesson includes an everyday skit using the characters "John" and "Jennie". We follow them through conversations in their lives and learn about Canadian culture.

Class 1: Creation
Making Cookies: With John & Jennie

John: Jennie, I would like to learn how to make some cookies.
Jennie: Oh, John. I will teach you. First, you need a bowl and some measuring cups.
John: Yes, I have these.
Jennie: Next you need some flour, butter, and sugar.
John: How much?
Jennie: Follow the recipe!
John: I'm done. To what temperature do I set the oven?
Jennie: 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
John: Great! And I bake the cookies for 20 minutes?
Jennie: Well, some ovens are different. Just cook them until they're golden brown.
John: Great, thank!

Recipe: Scottish Shortbread

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 3/4 cup butter

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350F (180C).
- Mix all ingredients well. Dough will be stiff.
- Press into a 9 x 9 inch (23 x 23 cm) buttered dish. Prick top with a fork.
- Bake until pale golden brown on the edges, about 20 minutes. Cool and cut into squares.

Notes

- In North America: 1 cup = 250ml.

Here we include interesting facts, pictures, or recipes: anything that will add to the skit that the students have just read.

Every lesson includes a Bible skit. The English used here is more simple than in the Bible reading. This is to help students better understand the Biblical narrative, and gives them a chance to have some fun with acting.

Narrator 4: "Be fruitful and fill the earth and sea." God said as He blessed the living creatures of the sea and sky. And God saw that it was good.
Narrator 1: "Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures.'" And God made all kinds of animals: livestock, creeping things, and wild animals.
Narrator 2: "Then God created the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. They were the greatest of all God's creations because they were made in His image. God made Adam and Eve with souls that would never die."
Narrator 3: "God planned for people to risk and live in harmony with all of nature. God looked at everything He had made, and He saw it was all very good."
Narrator 4: "On the seventh day, God rested."

English Idioms (英語の慣習)

Be fruitful and multiply - (1) a blessing; (2) hope someone will be successful; (3) hope someone will have many children
Genesis - the beginning or creation of something new

Interesting things about the number seven

- Symbol of completeness and perfection.
- God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh day.
- In North America, stores used to close on Sunday, because on the seventh day God rested.
- In casinos, #7 is considered lucky.

Memory Verse

"God saw all He had made and it was good." (Genesis 1:31)

There are often idioms and ideas stemming from the Bible that English speakers take for granted. In the top box we explain any idioms that are derived from the story. And in the bottom, we teach about culture. In this lesson, we talk about the use of the number 7 in Western society.

Each week we include a Bible verse. The Japanese enjoy collecting things so we also provide a the verse printed on an attractive business card as a reward for completing the week's lesson. Some students will even ask for the card if we forget to distribute it!

Each lesson also contains a number of other segments not shown here:

1. A Bible reading, in both English and Japanese. The rest of the lesson is based on this, so we want to make sure that everyone easily understands, regardless of their level.
2. Vocabulary and pronunciation practice.
3. Comprehension questions, and more introspective "thought questions" for discussion.
4. Extra activities or games, such as charades, Pictionary, etc.