

# DTS Newsletter



by [William Voncannon](#) on 10/28/2024

Dear friends and family,

This DTS has been one of the greatest things ever! I feel like I have already learned so much over the last few weeks it's crazy. Already we've covered topics like God's character, hearing His voice, and grace on the cross. But let me start from the beginning. When I first arrived here in Japan, I was super nervous. I was afraid I had made the wrong choice or that I had made a mistake in coming here. However, God is bigger than my fears. At my first church service here they read Joshua 1:5 "No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you or forsake you". Even though I didn't understand anything of that service God was still able to speak to me. After that I stayed in Nagano with Mr. David and Mrs. Naomi from Grace International. They were so welcoming and really made me feel at home. Literally, Nagano looks like a first world Guatemala. Anyways it was great being there for a week and getting accustomed

to Japanese culture. Then the DTS officially began! The first week was a bit weird since they couldn't use the building that we were gonna stay in yet. So we had to stay with some of the staff. The first week's theme was mostly orientation and an overview of God's plan throughout the Bible. It was kind of boring since it was stuff that I already knew but it was definitely worth the review. The second week was over God's character and hearing His voice. The biggest take away from that week was that "If we do not obey God whenever he speaks, then there's no point in him speaking". So basically, we must obey. Whenever He tells us something we need to obey in faith. There were other things that God spoke to me that week but that was the biggest. Last week was about the cross and grace. Actually the Word for grace is megumi which in Kanji look like this (恵). If you look closely it has a box shape and a cross. The box shape is actually the kanji for 'think' and the cross is, well, the cross. So, we need to think of the cross and how by grace we were saved. Also, the speaker had an analogy of Jacob and Esau which I thought was quite interesting. Obviously lying is wrong and we shouldn't do it. But, even though Esau deserved to be blessed and Jacob didn't, Jacob ended up being blessed. This is basically what happened at the cross. Jesus deserved to be blessed by the father but because of grace we were the ones who did. Maybe the way I wrote it didn't make much sense but I hope you get the idea. Now this week's theme is "Destiny by Design" which I am very excited for.



DTS Students and Staff

## Other things within the DTS

During this DTS, on top of our lectures we have assignments, ministry, and work duties. Even though Japan has religious freedom there is a very low percentage of Christians here. Part of it is simple culture. Like they have an idea that christianity is a western thing and that they'll be less Japanese. However I think christianity can make them even more Japanese. Like they can implement aspects of their culture into it. Obviously all the buddhism and shinto aspects of their culture can't be incorporated but God still made these people and I think he has a design to the honor and respect that they put on things.

# Prayer Points

It would be great if y'all could pray over these next points during this time.

- For people to be saved.
- For the love of Christ to be shown through everyday interaction.
- For the church to unite here in Japan.
- For young people to be brought to the church.