

# Churches in Asia

**Pray that the Churches in Asia may grow and teach others about the gospel.**



We live in a country where there are many Christians. We are free to go to church. There are many people who share our beliefs, and it's easy to find a church to go to on Sunday. Can you imagine what it would be like if you were the only Christian in your neighborhood?

The continent of Asia is a very large area – almost a third of the whole world! Over half of the world's people live there. But – unlike the United States – only 6% of the people who live in Asia are Christians.

This month the Pope wants us to pray for Churches in Asia. Pope Benedict knows that it is difficult to be strong in your beliefs when there are so few people around you who share them. That's why he wants us

to pray that Christians in Asia stay strong in their faith and that they teach others about the gospel.

Have you ever been teased for being different? That's really hard. Sometimes people are beaten or sent away because they are different. That's why we hope that the Asian Christians may find peace and joy in their belief in Jesus.

We join the Pope praying for them, that they stay strong even when it's hard.

## ***Think about it!***

- Can you find Asia on a map?
- Why is it hard to be a Christian in Asia?
- What can you do to help Christians in Asia stay strong?

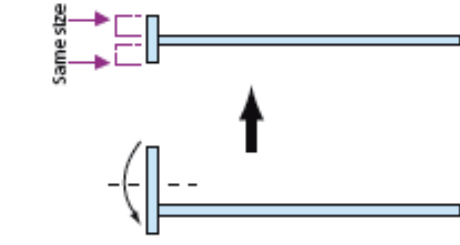
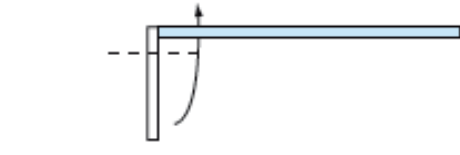
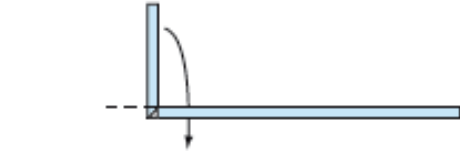
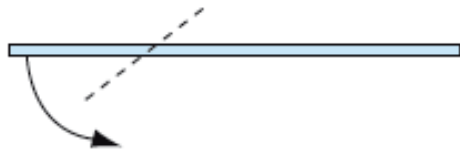
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## *An Origami Cross*



Origami is the Japanese word for paper folding. **ORI** means “to fold” and KAMI means “paper” – together, they make the word **origami**. Origami is a traditional hobby in Japan that has been handed down from parent to child through many generations. Pieces of paper are folded in different ways to create shapes like animals and plants. Since it only takes a sheet of paper, the hobby can easily be enjoyed anywhere. Many people in Japan enjoy it at home and at school.

Follow the instructions on the next page to make an origami cross. Have your mom or dad help you. Every time you look at the cross remember the Christians in Asia and say a little prayer for them.



Begin with a strip of paper approx. 0.7 cm X 30 cm, coloured side up.

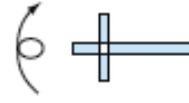
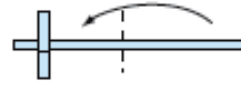
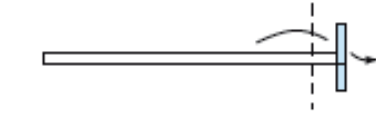
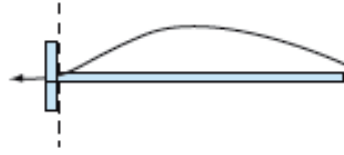
1. Fold one third down the strip.

2. Fold end around back.

3. Fold around front.

4. Fold the end in front.

5. Fold section around the back, past the centre and tuck back into centre of model. Make sure the 2 sections indicated are of equal size.



6. Fold whole section down.

7. Pull bottom of paper through and up centre section of cross.

8. Fold down along crease shown, and thread underneath the centre square.

9. Fold up behind cross and tuck the end underneath the centre square.

Turn over.  
Finished cross