

Simplified Bible Stories for Japanese Language Learners

「日本語学習者のための聖書物語」

JMLI 日本語学校 December 1999

Seisho Monogatari is available for free download to JEMA (Japan Evangelical Missionary Association) members from the JEMA Website at <http://www.jema.org/joomla15/>

There are 3 components to this resource:

1. **PDF text file with furigana.** The furigana is on many kanji although not repeated when a word has already appeared once.
2. **PDF text file without furigana** (produced by the OMF Japanese Language Centre.)
3. **Audio digital files of each story** (produced by the OMF Japanese Language Centre)

Seisho Monogatari is recommended for post beginners upwards but not for good intermediate learners plus unless Japanese reading ability is low.

There are 20 Bible stories graded from **very easy to higher intermediate or from levels 1-5** (the text does not specify what these levels correspond to). There is a word glossary at the back divided story by story. There are also great illustrations in the furigana text.

The stories were written by the staff of the former Japan Missionary Language Institute(JMLI) in Tokyo. Their aim was to help students become more independent learners by means of **EXTENSIVE READING.** (ie reading for gist as opposed to reading to understand every word which is known as intensive reading.) Japanese is probably one of the most difficult languages for non kanji background students to do extensive reading in because of the Kanji barrier so this is a great little resource. The aim was *'to produce reading material for outside the classroom. Reading material for pleasure. Reading material to fill the gap between the textbook and authentic written Japanese. Reading material where students could glean biblical names and expressions in Japanese. Reading material that would make students want to read more. Reading material that would drive students out of teacher guided learning.'*