

The Nanking Massacre

Introduction for teachers

1. What does the study of this topic show us about God Himself?

God is just, merciful and forgiving

2. Which scripture passages illustrate this aspect of God?

Matthew 6:12-14 – the Lord's Prayer

Matthew 18:21-35 – How many times should I forgive my brother when he sins against me?

1 John 3:11 & 16 – Jesus forgave us so we should forgive others.

3. How does understanding God in this way change our lives?

Breaks down bitterness and frees us from the past.

The Nanking Massacre

Name.....date.....

On 13/12/37 Nanking city fell to the invading Japanese army. Genocidal war atrocities began and ended in February 1938. About 300 000 people were murdered. Emperor Hirohito told the army to remove all international constraints of international law regarding treatment of prisoners of war. Twenty-two brave missionaries and western civilians remained and formed a Nanking Safety Zone. John Magee a missionary who remained filmed and photographed the massacre. He and his friends saved many Chinese lives by bravely defending them verbally within their Safety Zone.



1. Today the Japanese government understates the massacre and school textbooks and recent historical movies edit out this major incident. Japan wants good trade relations with China, contention over this incident sours things. Why would Japan be reluctant to admit fully its involvement in this massacre and avoid full apology and reparation to the survivors?
2. Write the dictionary meaning of reconciliation.

3. Why did the Australian government take so long to issue an apology to the victims of the “stolen generation” of Australian Aborigines?
4. Why did the missionaries in Nanking remain within the city and take such exceptional risks?
5. On a map of China locate the city of Nanking. Look at some photographs on the internet of the modern city and compare with some of the photographs of the war time events.
6. Massacres of this type are common in the Bible and in the time of Jesus one occurred, (Mt 2:13-18). Why did this slaughter in this passage occur?
7. The attack on the New York Twin Towers and the bombing of the London Underground trains meant the slaughter of large numbers of people in recent times. What response would you make if you were a Christian president/prime minister, to such atrocities? Military retaliation, acquiescence to the demands of the perpetrators, turn the other cheek and not respond, send equal financial gifts to all nations/groups involved in the conflict.....
8. View all or part of the DVD *Hotel Rwanda* or *Schindler's List* <http://www.unitedartists.com/hotelrwanda/intro.html> or <http://www.schindlerslist.com/> What can one person do in the midst of the madness of a massacre? What should a Christian do?
9. What does the *Our Father* prayer teach about forgiveness? (Mat 6:12-14)
10. God is just and merciful in the very nature of His character. So what does he want of us in terms of these attributes? The parable in Matthew 18:21-35 speaks of the lack of mercy. Read it and comment on how it speaks into situations of national and international offence.
11. What was the reaction of the father in the parable of the Prodigal son? (Luke 15:11-31)
12. Why should we forgive others? (1 John 3:11 &16)