



# CAMP2CAMP

## EAST ASIA

### TALKING POINTS

FUN AT JOY IN THE JOURNEY CAMP, RAIN OR SHINE!



#### BACKGROUND ON EAST ASIA

- Kids in East Asia have significant pressure to study hard, excel in school, attend top schools, and get a good job to provide for their parents and grandparents.
- Weekend, summer, and winter extracurricular classes are common, so most kids don't have any free time. Of these classes, many parents opt for activities that improve their child's English level.
- For kids in East Asia, a typical school day is from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm with a lunch break from 12 to 2 pm. High-schoolers then return between 6:30 pm and 7 pm for additional study and tutoring time until 9 pm. Most students still have to finish homework when they get home.
- A one-child policy was in place from the late 1970s until 2015 when families were permitted to have two children. Many kids who come to Joy in the Journey Camp either do not have siblings or have a baby brother or sister who is much younger than they are.
- East Asia and the US are almost exactly the same size in land area, but East Asia has 4.4 times more people than the US has and is the most populated region on earth with 1.4 billion people.
- East Asia is made up of 56 official ethnic people groups, with the majority in the Han people group. Most of the kids that come to Joy in the Journey Camp are from the Han people group.





- Religions in East Asia include Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, and ethnic religions or ideologies such as Daoism, Confucianism, and ancestor veneration. Christians make up between 7 and 9% of the population, leaving 1.27 billion people who do not know Jesus (3.9 times the total population of the US).
- Almost half of the people in East Asia are non-religious (44%), and this group is often skeptical about religion. The cultural differences of being an honor/shame-based society and a collectivist society that values “saving face” combine to make it hard to tell when someone accepts the good news of Jesus. As a result, long-term relationships and life witness are an important part of the faith journey here.

#### ABOUT THE CAMP

- Joy in the Journey Camp started in 2009 with just 15 campers. Now after 10 years they are at maximum capacity with 60 campers each week.
- Joy in the Journey Camp runs for six weeks in the summer and two weeks in the winter and offers follow-up English class activities year-round on Saturday evenings every other week.
- 60% of campers who come to Joy in the Journey Camp are repeat attenders. Many come year after year, and after they turn 18 they return to volunteer as camp counselors.
- Joy in the Journey Camp serves kids from two-parent families, single-parent families, and orphanages, as well as left-behind children and kids with parents in prison.
- Campers range in age from 8 to 18.
- Joy in the Journey Camp loves this mix of kids and the leaders are intentional about teaching kids to help each other through these varied experiences.
- East Asia is a closed country, so Joy in the Journey Camp cannot be a Christian camp. Camp themes, content, and activities are designed with truth and biblical principles to be a launch point for one-on-one conversation in a safe, fun environment.
- The Joy in the Journey campsite was originally a pig farm and a cheese factory. Now campers sleep in the converted pig stalls, and the room where the cheeses were aged is now the main gathering space called the Rally Room. The campsite has gone from a place of maturing cheese and raising pigs to a place of maturing campers and raising up kids.
- Many campers learn responsibility and life skills, such as dishwashing and cleaning up, that they aren't expected to do at home. When they return home willing to help, they make an impact on their parents.
- Joy in the Journey Camp's passion is to help kids discover their value, to see them mature, to teach teamwork, and to show love to every child who comes to camp.
- Many campers are more proficient in reading and writing in English than they are in listening and speaking the language. Joy in the Journey Camp provides campers with an English immersion experience where they can practice what they are learning in a safe environment while having fun at the same time. Parents send their kids to learn English, kids come to have fun, and Joy in the Journey Camp aims to do both well!



- During any week of summer camp, there are typically 50-60 campers, 20 local college-aged counselors, 10 foreign teachers, four camp staff, and four to five support staff.
- Joy in the Journey Camp counselors are college-age students who come for two weeks at a time each summer. Some grew up attending camp, and others hear about it by word of mouth and come for the first time as a counselor. Through pre-camp trainings and camp evening sessions, Joy in the Journey Camp gets a chance to go deeper with the counselors and share why they love and serve these kids.

#### PROJECT INFO

- **RAIN:** Summer camp runs for six weeks during July and August, which falls exactly during the rainy season. Last year during the first week of camp, it rained continuously five of the six days. While the Rally Room can accommodate 90 or so campers and staff for activities such as skits, songs, and talks, the space is too tight for everyone to play games when it is raining.

With the help of this project, Joy in the Journey Camp would like to create an indoor activity space above the office and classroom building to use during rainy weeks, as well as for other activities.

- **RAIN:** The soil where Joy in the Journey Camp is located is very hard, which creates land formations called the Loess Plateau. That means rainwater does not drain well—instead it pools in some areas so much that the space is unusable for days at a time.

As part of this project, Joy in the Journey Camp hopes to add new rainwater drain pipes and lay brick under the picnic table area so the space is still functional when it rains.

- **SHINE:** Every afternoon Joy in the Journey offers outdoor activity stations where campers enjoy being outside in the sun. These include a low ropes course, mountain bikes in the countryside, and archery in a nearby forest.

Nearly half of the archery equipment is broken, however, and the camp hopes to update their equipment with new bows, arrows, and targets so that many more kids can learn this sport for fun and to build self-confidence.

- **SHINE:** Joy in the Journey Camp currently has an eight-foot-high indoor climbing wall for younger campers, but it is too small for teenagers.

With the help of this project, Joy in the Journey Camp hopes to build a 2 1/2-story outdoor climbing wall and add one or two ziplines. These new activities will greatly improve the adventure side of camp for older kids. They will also likely attract new campers, as well as increase incentive for previous campers to return.

