MISSIONS ADVENTURE!

WEEK ONE
Greetings
Open the class by greeting the children with “Hello,” or “Ni Hao” (pronounced Knee How), which means “How are you?” in Mandarin Chinese.

Where is China?
Show a world map or globe and point out the country of China. Download a map from https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ch.html and point out the country.

Another downloadable map can be found at http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/asia/cnlarge.htm

Country Facts (Photos)
Share with your students the following information about China. Show the pictures on PowerPoint or the ones that you’ve printed out.

1. (Photo 1) There are more than 250 million children in China. This mother and daughter are Han Chinese, which is the main ethnic group. About 91 percent of Chinese are Han Chinese.

2. (Photo 2) About 91 percent of Chinese are part of the ethnic group Han Chinese; the rest are members of one of 55 other minority ethnic groups.
3. (Photos 3-7) China’s ethnic minority groups live in a variety of dwellings that include cabins, grass-top homes, tree houses, boats, and what we would call shacks.

4. (Photo 8) Some Chinese live in their own homes in the suburbs or in the countryside.

5. (Photo 9) Many Chinese in big cities, like Hong Kong or the capital city Beijing, live in tall skyscrapers.

6. (Photo 10) This is a penthouse in one of those tall skyscrapers in Hong Kong.

7. (Photo 11) For many years, the Communist government of China tried to teach the people that God didn’t exist and that people didn’t need religion. Today, about half the people don’t believe in God. The rest are Buddhists, Taoists, or Muslims; some worship ancestors, animals, or other things, and some are Christians.

8. (Photo 12) This is a Taoist temple.

9. (Photo 13) This home has an altar for worshipping the family’s ancestors.

10. (Photo 14) Some minority groups participate in worshipping gourds. A gourd is the hollow, dried shell of a fruit that is similar to a pumpkin.

11. (Photo 15) Some minority groups participate in worshipping cows.

12. (Photo 16) This is a church in Hong Kong.

The Story of Mei

Mei* was born in China. Her parents named her Mei because it means "pretty" in Mandarin, the official language of China. Her dad’s name is Lee, and her mom’s name is Mulan. One day when Mei was a baby, her father had a wonderful opportunity to study in the United States. Mei’s mother decided to go with Lee to America, and they left baby Mei with Mulan’s parents in China. It was very difficult for Mei’s parents to say good-bye, because they didn’t know when they would see Mei again. The Chinese government has restrictions on who can leave and when they can leave.

*name changed

Say, “You will learn more about Mei next week.”

Bible Verse and Prayer

Matthew 18:14: “In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.” God cares about the people of China and the children of China. He wants them to become His children. The Alliance is praying for and reaching out to the people of China wherever they live. Take a few minutes to pray for the people of China, especially the children of China and international workers in that region of the world.

Teacher’s Notes: If you have letters from friends or international workers in China, share them with the children.

Tell the children good-bye in Mandarin Chinese, “Dzai Jian.”
For this lesson, use the same activities as above but add some or all of the additional ones listed below.

Introduction
Using a world map, ask the children to identify the continents of the world. Tell them that our study this month comes from an Asian country. Give them the following clues until they guess the right country:

- The main food of the country is rice or noodles.
- The shape of the country looks like a chicken.
- The country highly honors education and ancestors.
- The official language is Mandarin.
- There is a great wall that cuts across it.

Ask, “What country are we learning about?”
Then say, “Yes, we are learning about the country of China.”

Learning Activities:

Geography of China (Make a copy of Southeast Asia map for each student.)

- Point out China on your map.
- Mention some of the major land types: the Gobi Desert to the north along the Mongolian border, the Tibetan Plateau in the west, and the Himalayan Mountains in the southwest. More than half of China is mountains and hills.
- Review the map of China with the students, identifying the country’s main neighbors and oceans. Using markers/crayons, have the children identify the important landmarks as you ask the following questions:

1. On which continent is China located? (Answer: Asia)
2. What shape does the country of China remind you of? (Answer: a chicken) Color the country yellow.
3. What countries surround China? (Answer: Mongolia, Russia, North Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Bhutan, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan)
5. Find the capital city of China. It is called Beijing. Mark it with a star.
6. Find the city of Hong Kong. The Alliance has been based in Hong Kong for many years. Mark it with a flower.
7. Is China located within the 10/40 Window? (Answer: Yes—this is the geographical window of the world that is least reached with the message of the gospel.)

Say, “Let’s learn more about how the people in China live.”
PowerPoint Presentation 1—Ethnic Groups, Homes, Religions of China

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Game: Catch the Dragon's Tail
This traditional Chinese game is played outside.

Age: Any  
Group size: 10 or more

The children all form a line with their hands on the shoulders of the child in front of them. The first in line is the dragon's head. The last in line is the dragon's tail.

The dragon’s head then tries to catch the tail by maneuvering the line around so that he can tag the last player. All the players in the middle do their best to hinder the dragon's head. Don’t let the line break!

When the head catches the tail, the tail player takes the front position and becomes the new dragon's head. The other players move back one position.

Craft Projects: Chinese Fans
Make Chinese fans with folded construction paper, ink, or paint and stamps. You can save them for decorations for the Chinese New Year Celebration in Lesson 4. Fans are very popular in China. For complete directions, go to http://crafts.kaboose.com/holidays/chinese-new-years/chinese-new-years-crafts.html

Snack
Serve a typical snack eaten in China like peanuts or dried fruit

Prayer
Take a few minutes to pray for the people of China, especially the children of China and international workers in that region of the world.

Teachers: If you have letters from friends or international workers in China, share them with the children.

Closing
Tell the children good-bye in Mandarin: “Dzai Jian.”

Optional Activity: Flag Coloring Page
You can download a free coloring page with the Chinese flag at http://www.coloringcastle.com/flag_coloring_pages.html

Sources
History of The Alliance in China
http://www.cmalliance.org/about/history/in-the-line-of-fire/boxer-rebellion

Facts http://www.chinatoday.com/general/a.htm#RELI

Chinese Games http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/traditional_chinese_games.htm