

Family Guide

Russia



*"Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance,
and the very ends of the earth as Your possession."
— Psalm 2:8, New American Standard Bible 1995*



A One-Year Prayer ADVENTURE!

Using this handy family guide, we will travel to a faraway country every month, learn about its people and culture and pray for them. We will focus on a different least-reached country in every guide. There are 12 family guides covering 12 countries this year—one for every month.

Why do we call these countries “least reached”? Many of the people in these countries have never heard about Jesus, or it’s difficult for them to hear about Him. Even though you won’t get on a plane to each country, when you pray, you join our adventure—our mission to make a difference in the lives of the people in each country.

The best part is you’ll always know what to pray for. This family guide gives you a prayer request for every day of the week. Moms, dads and kids everywhere will be praying for the same thing together too. Let’s get started by learning about this month’s country.

WELCOME TO Russia!



Russia is a really big country, the biggest one in the whole world! It's so big that when it's morning in one part, it might be night in another. Imagine having to go to bed when your friends on the other side of Russia are just waking up!

Russia is also like a big family with lots of different people. There are more than 180 groups of people who all have their own special ways of dressing, eating, and having fun.

This month, we're going to explore Russia and learn about all its cool things and how everyone there can use a friend like Jesus, who loves everyone no matter where they're from or what they look like.



Fun Facts About Russia



Russia is famous for two really cool things that might seem like they don't go together. First, there's ballet, where people dance gracefully on their tiptoes. And then there are space dogs! A long time ago, Russia sent dogs into space to see if humans could go there, too. So, twirling dancers and dogs in space - both from Russia!



There's a tiny village in Russia called Oymyakon where it gets so cold, you can freeze your breath in the air! It's the coldest place where people live all year-round. In winter, temperatures drop far below freezing—as low as -90°F (-67.7°C).



Imagine a huge museum with so many cool things to see (like dinosaur bones, old paintings and shiny jewels) that you could visit every day for almost ten years without seeing everything. That's the Hermitage Museum! It's like a treasure chest of history from way before there were television sets or even books.



In the summer in Russia, especially in places like St. Petersburg, the sun doesn't really set. It stays light like daytime all night long! Many people have parties and celebrate because it's always daytime. They call these special nights "White Nights."



Think about the longest train ride ever. Russia has a train track that goes from one side of the country to the other, all the way across! It's called the Trans-Siberian Railway. It's so long that if you started in the city of Moscow and wanted to get to Vladivostok across the country, you'd be on the train for days, seeing all sorts of beautiful landscapes along the way.

Ready to pray for the people of Russia?

Celebrating a friend's birthday is a way of honoring them and showing they're special to us. We can celebrate God, too. Not only is He our friend, but He is the mighty Creator of the universe and He's our Creator, too. We celebrate God by praising Him. Let's take a moment to quiet our thoughts and give our full attention to Him and all the good that is in Him. God loves that we praise Him; He blesses us with His peace, hope and an energy that refreshes us because we have met with Him.

Here are some verses that I use to celebrate our wonderful God.

Your love is better than life. I will praise you.
I will praise You as long as I live.
I will lift up my hands in prayer to Your name."
— Psalm 63:3-4, International Children's Bible

"I praise Your greatness, my God the King.
I will praise You forever and ever.
I will praise You every day.
I will praise You forever and ever.
The Lord is great. He is worthy of our praise.
No one can understand how great He is.
— Psalm 145:1-3, ICB

As we begin to pray for the people of Russia, let's remember to pray that Christians across this land will frequently take time to stop and celebrate God.

Your Prayer Partner,

Lucinda

Please email me, or have a parent email me, if you have any questions or want to share what you are learning about prayer. I'd love to hear from you! prayer@jesusfilm.org



WEEK 1 REQUESTS



“For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son. God gave His Son so that whoever believes in Him may not be lost, but have eternal life.”

— John 3:16, ICB



Day 1

What do Christian leaders do? Well, they do a lot! Here are some important things they do:

- They help new believers understand the importance of the Bible and to obey what it says.
- They show new believers what it means to trust God with the help of His Holy Spirit.
- They teach new believers how to share the message of Jesus with others.
- And they train new believers to become leaders too!

Ask God to raise up new Christian leaders in Russia.

Day 2

Pray that God provides money for Christian work in Russia. That way, the workers can do their part sharing the gospel message with those who have never heard it.

Day 3

Pray for wise and faithful leaders and counselors to make decisions that are good for Russia and for its people.

Day 4

Russia is the largest country in the world. It's so big that it stretches across 11 time zones. There are 180 people groups that live in Russia. Ask God to reveal Himself to every one of them.

Day 5

The Bible sometimes uses words about something we know to teach us about something we don't know. Luke 10:2 talks about farmers (sometimes called laborers) who gather (harvest) ripe and ready-to-pick fruit and vegetables. This story tells us more Christian workers, like farmers, are needed to go out and tell people about Jesus so they can be gathered into God's family. God knows many would gladly say "yes" to following Jesus if only someone would tell them about Him! Let's pray for more Christian workers in Russia to help with this work.

Day 6

Using Scripture is a great way to pray for yourself, your family and friends—not just for people far away. Pray this for the people in your life and for every Christian in Russia:

“You were raised from death with Christ. So aim at what is in heaven, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Think only about the things in heaven, not the things on earth.” — Colossians 3:1-2, ICB

Day 7

Some people groups around Russia have very few Christians. Pray that Bibles, Bible studies and other tools will soon be created in the languages of these groups. That way, they can know that the God of the Bible wants to be their friend.

Week 1 Activity: Ballet Coloring Page

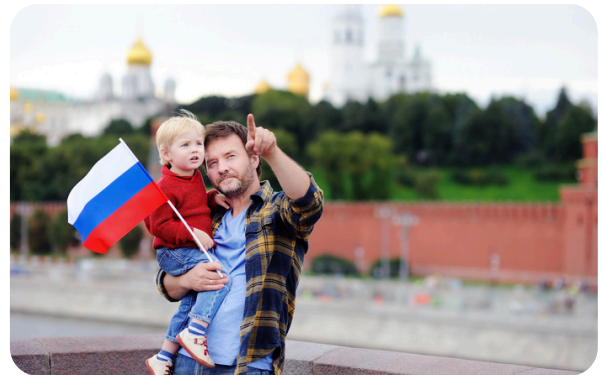


WEEK 2 REQUESTS



“All the earth should worship the Lord. The whole world should fear Him.”

– Psalm 33:8, ICB



□ Day 8

Let’s praise God that new churches have been started in Russia! Pray He would inspire leaders and new believers to start even more churches. He knows exactly the right time for each one.

□ Day 9

God is powerful enough to change the world instantly! But He chooses to use people like you and me to change the world by being obedient to Him. He used Paul in the Bible to take the good news of Jesus around the world. And He still uses people like that! Pray that Christians in Russia will live boldly for Jesus and walk in His ways so they can do great things in His name.

□ Day 10

God is far more creative than you or me or anyone we know. Let’s ask Him to create the best tools for Russian Christian workers to talk about Jesus, so they can be ready to share Him with everyone.

□ Day 11

Pray that Russia can find peaceful ways to end conflicts with other countries.

□ Day 12

People in healthy, growing churches sometimes decide to form two churches out of one, sending the people in the new church to serve a different neighborhood. Let’s ask God for healthy, growing churches full of people who want to reach even more people by multiplying into two.

□ Day 13

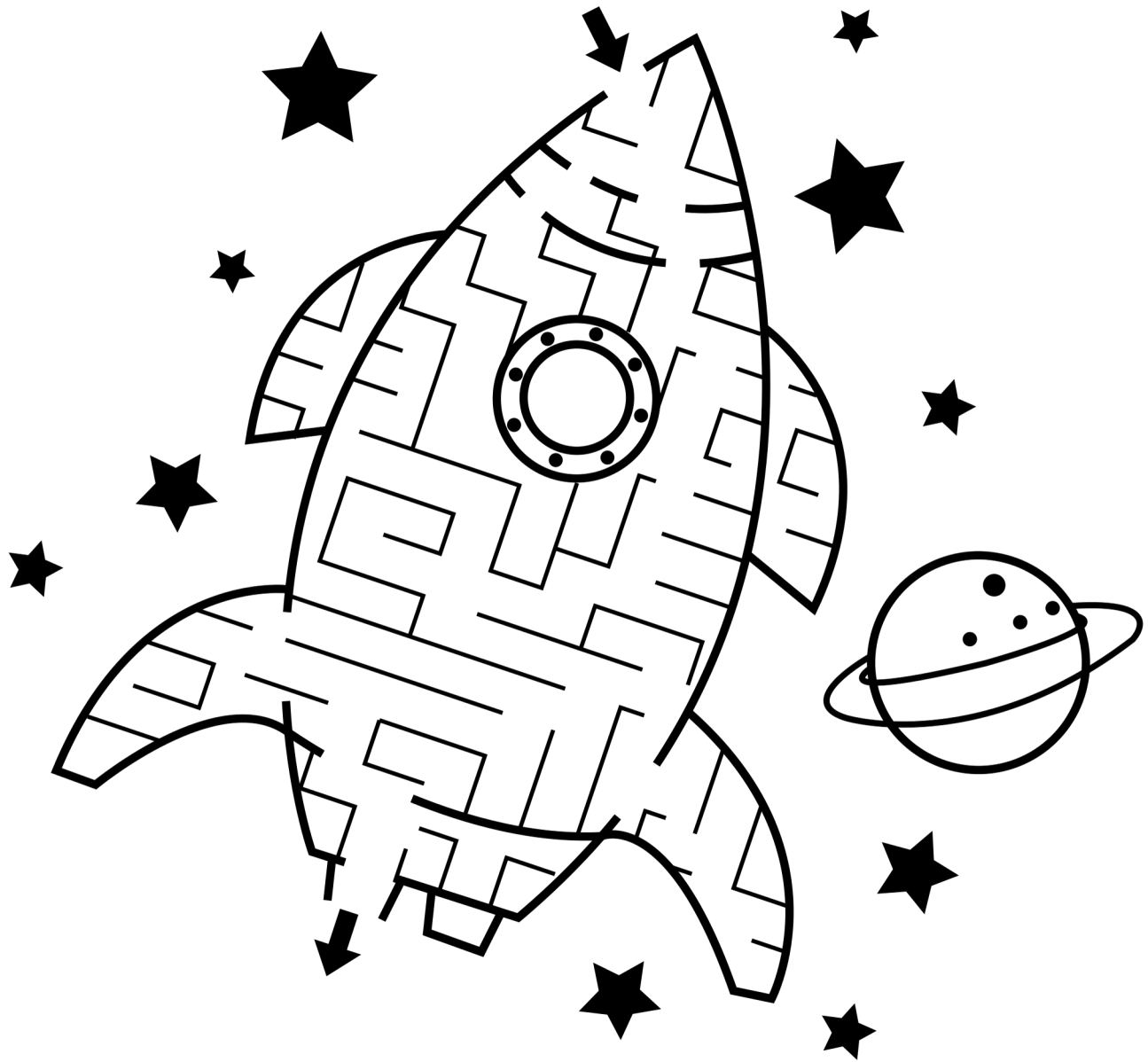
Pray that Russian people who do not yet know Jesus would recognize Him for who He is and see their need for Him.

“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way. And I am the truth and the life. The only way to the Father is through Me.’” – John 14:6, ICB

□ Day 14

Sometimes it's easier for people who don't know Jesus to hear about Him from others who are like them. For example, women and girls in Russia might receive Jesus' message better from other Russian women and girls. Ask God for Christian women who can teach other women about who He is and how they can choose to follow Him. Pray that God would strengthen their faith in Him and help them become teachers of others.

Week 2 Activity: Space Rocket Maze



WEEK 3 REQUESTS



“The Lord is not slow in doing what He promised—the way some people understand slowness. But God is being patient with you. He does not want anyone to be lost. He wants everyone to change his heart and life.”

— 2 Peter 3:9, ICB



□ Day 15

Sometimes, we worry and are anxious about things. But if we belong to God, He asks us to trust Him. He’s always at work, even if we don’t understand what’s happening. When it’s hard to trust, ask for His help. Let’s thank Him that He’s always right beside us, listening, comforting and collecting our tears.

□ Day 16

Pray that all believers in Russia and all the countries of the world would work together to tell the story of Jesus until everyone has heard it.

□ Day 17

Most people in Russia don’t yet know the God of the Bible or how much He loves them. They are living in spiritual darkness. Pray for Jesus to light the way for Russians to discover how much they are loved by God.

□ Day 18

Pray that God will put Christians near Russia’s leaders to guide them in making wise decisions for their country.

□ Day 19

Pray for the work of Christians in Russia to grow in all the ways it can—more workers, more partners, more prayer, more training and more tools—so that more people give their hearts to Jesus.

□ Day 20

The Bible teaches us that we have an enemy (the devil) who wants to keep Christians from trusting God. God wants us to stay close to Him and let Him fight for us. The Christians in Russia need to do this as well, so join me in praying God’s Word for them.

“Control yourselves and be careful! The devil is your enemy. And he goes around like a roaring lion looking for someone to eat. Refuse to give in to the devil. Stand strong in your faith. ...”

— 1 Peter 5:8-9, ICB

□ Day 21

Starting a new church is hard work and it takes lots of people to help. Let’s pray God brings together teams of people to start new churches in Russia within reach of every person in the country.

Week 3 Activity: Russia Word Search

K R E M L I N W P J N M N B V
O Y M Y A K O N O O V P W X T
N V C Y C S W T W A I D P Z T
E E T E R N A L L I F E E B R
I C Y Q W F S G K F R U O S A
N T S J H R Q N U Z A B P S N
H S I Y I D R H D A I Y L P S
E S K M T B I U J S L M E A S
R I L M E T A V P O W V G C I
I B D C N Z X L E N A P R E B
T Z W R I P O S L R Y R O D E
A Q J H G C V N Y E S N U O R
N S Z A H Z V M E P T E P G I
C K N H T L B V C S B W S A A
E Y Y G S L B Z U J V C L T N

WORD LIST

BALLET

INHERITANCE

PEOPLE GROUPS

TIMEZONES

DIVERSE

KREMLIN

RAILWAY

TRANS SIBERIAN

ETERNAL LIFE

OYMYAKON

SPACE DOG

WHITE NIGHTS

WEEK 4 REQUESTS



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“Come to Me, all of you who are tired and have heavy loads. I will give you rest.”

– Matthew 11:28, ICB



Day 22

Pray that Russian Christians would continue to share the gospel with those around them and help younger Christians grow in their faith.

Day 23

Pray that God leads Christians to talk to not-yet-believers in Russia who want to know the truth. Pray for God to open their eyes to the truth that Jesus gave His life on the cross for them and make the choice to follow Him. May they become men and women who follow after God for all the days of their lives.

Day 24

Movies, TV, radio, newspapers, books and the internet are all media—ways that people pass along information to other people. All of these have been used to share the gospel in different places. Even if a country limits how much their people can use media, our God has no limits. Pray that He will equip Christians in Russia to use media to bring the message of Jesus and His love into the light for not-yet-believers to see and believe.

Day 25

Praise God that Christians in Russia have been able to offer comfort to others during difficult times. May God continue to lead them in caring for their family, their friends and their communities.

Day 26

Did you know that Christian churches do not earn an income for their work? The Bible says Christians are to help support God’s work in the church and elsewhere by giving tithes and offerings. Christian workers may also depend upon Christian friends and churches for money to do their work. Pray that God will supply churches and Christian workers with the money they need.

Day 27

God wants every Russian to understand what Jesus did for them. For this to happen, we need Christians to go tell them. Let’s pray for that.

“But before people can trust in the Lord for help, they must believe in Him. And before they can believe in the Lord, they must hear about Him. And for them to hear about the Lord, someone must tell them. And before someone can go and tell them, he must be sent. It is written, ‘How beautiful is the person who comes to bring good news.’”

– Romans 10:14-15, ICB

Day 28

People often gather in groups made up of people like themselves, and especially those who speak the same language. Pray for God to lead Christians from every people group in Russia to plant churches so their people are comfortable joining in. Pray that they make friends in these churches and discover God’s awesome love.

Week 4 Activity: Trace John 14:6 in Russian

Иисус ответил:

– Я есть путь,

истина и жизнь.

Никто не приходит

к Отцу, как только

через Меня.

Иоанна 14:6 New Russian Translation

‘Jesus answered, “I am the way. And I am the truth and the life. The only way to the Father is through Me.”’

– John 14:6, ICB

WEEK 5 REQUESTS



Day 29

Have you ever done something you knew you shouldn't do because no one is watching? We wrongly think no one will know, so it doesn't matter. But it matters a lot to God. Here's why:

When you and I chose to follow Jesus, it's because we learned He died on the cross to forgive our sins. He did it because He loves us. Wow! The Bible tells us how to walk in His ways. The more we learn and obey, the less we will mess up. And when we do mess up, remember that Jesus is with us. And He has forgiven us. You can always count on that.

This is how it is with all of God's children. Pray that Russian Christians will walk in His ways, even when no one is watching.

Day 30

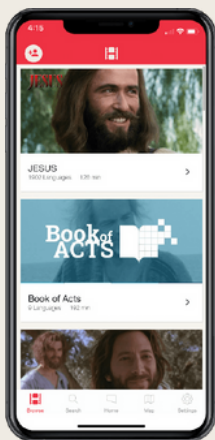
Ask God to provide food and necessary things for Christian workers and their families during hard times.

Day 31

Lord Jesus, we thank You for giving us a chance to pray for Russia each day this month. We believe You will continue Your work there until everyone has heard clearly about Jesus and been invited to follow Him. Someday we'll see how You answered our prayers. May heaven be filled with Russian people who started to follow Jesus in part due to our prayers this month. We give you all honor and praise.

Resources

- ▶ Joshua Project has a tremendous amount of information about every country. This link will take you to information about Russia.
joshuaproject.net/countries/RS
- ▶ Prayercast has great prayer videos.
prayercast.com/prayer-topic/russia
- ▶ A great way to help someone learn more about Jesus is to share the *JESUS* film in their heart language. We have the film in over 2,000 languages on our website.
jesusfilm.org/watch/jesus.html/english
- ▶ We also have multiple other films and short films available.
jesusfilm.org/watch
- ▶ For more Jesus Film Project® prayer resources—including access to each month’s family prayer guide—visit the prayer page on the Jesus Film Project website.
jesusfilm.org/pray



The Jesus Film Project app is completely free and available on iOS and Android devices. Get the app now and start watching and sharing a huge library of Jesus-centered films.



This family guide is part of For the Least Reached: A Year of Prayer—a one-year prayer initiative created by Jesus Film Project. It's a great way for families to pray together for countries and people in the world who still don't know love, hope and forgiveness in Jesus. A new family guide is available every month.

Learn more at jesusfilm.org/pray.



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