

Family Guide

December 2022
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

Welcome to Russia!

The New Year is the most celebrated Russian holiday. On December 31, families across the country gather to exchange gifts and eat together. Then, on January 7, Russians celebrate what's called Orthodox Christmas. Let's pray that many people in Russia enter 2023 with a personal understanding of God's amazing love!



Russia is the largest country in the world—it covers one tenth of the earth's land area and spans 11 time zones! It is nearly two times the size of Canada, the second largest country.



“Ведь Бог так полюбил этот мир, что отдал Своего единственного Сына, чтобы каждый верующий в Него не погиб, но имел вечную жизнь.” — John 3:16

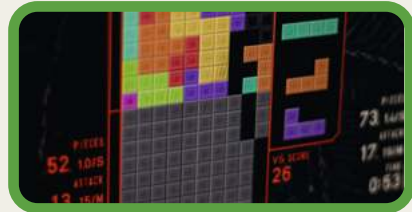
This Bible verse is in Russian, which is the national official language of Russia. Across the country, 129 languages are spoken, with many people speaking more than one of those languages.

Fun facts about Russia.

Bandy is the national sport of Russia. It is similar to ice hockey but uses a ball instead of a puck.



In 1984, Russian Alexey Pajitnov created the first Tetris video game for the Electronika 60 computer.



While about 80 percent of the population are ethnic Russians who trace their ancestry to the Slavs who settled in the area 1,500 years ago, there are 185 ethnic groups residing in Russia.



Moscow's Kremlin is the biggest active medieval fortress in the world. It spans more than 67 acres with 1.5 miles of wall and 20 towers. It is known as a city within a city and represents the government of Russia.



Yuri Gagarin, Russia (Soviet Union), was the first human in space on April 12, 1961. He beat the American, Alan Sheppard, to space by three weeks.



Ready to pray for the people of Russia?

Each day this month we hope you and your family will ask God to work in Russia as we have listed in the daily prayer requests. This is one important part of prayer, but prayer is more than just asking God to answer our requests.

Prayer is communicating with God. When you spend time with your friends, you talk back and forth. You take time to listen to what they have to say. That is how you get to know each other and build a friendship. The same is true for God.

The Bible is His written word to us, and it tells us a lot about God's character—who God is and what He is like. Reading the Bible is part of building this relationship with God. You learn more about who He is and how great He is. You also learn what He wants you to do.

I like to start my time of praying by celebrating who God is. This is also called praise. Each day this month, try to start your prayer time with celebrating God. Some examples,

- God, You are all powerful. Nothing is stronger than You.
- God, You are our provider. Everything that we have is a gift from You.
- God, You are in complete control. You have a purpose for everything that happens.
- God, You know everything. Nothing can surprise You.
- God, You see me. I am special to You.

Your 2022 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



01

Week 1: December 1–7, 2022

“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, International Children’s Bible



Week 1 Prayers



> People in healthy, growing churches sometimes decide to form two churches out of the 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 dividing into two.

> Pray that Christian gatherings in Russia would follow Paul’s instructions from this Bible verse: *“Let the teaching of Christ live in you richly. Use all wisdom to teach and strengthen each other. Sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God”* (Colossians 3:16, ICB).

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

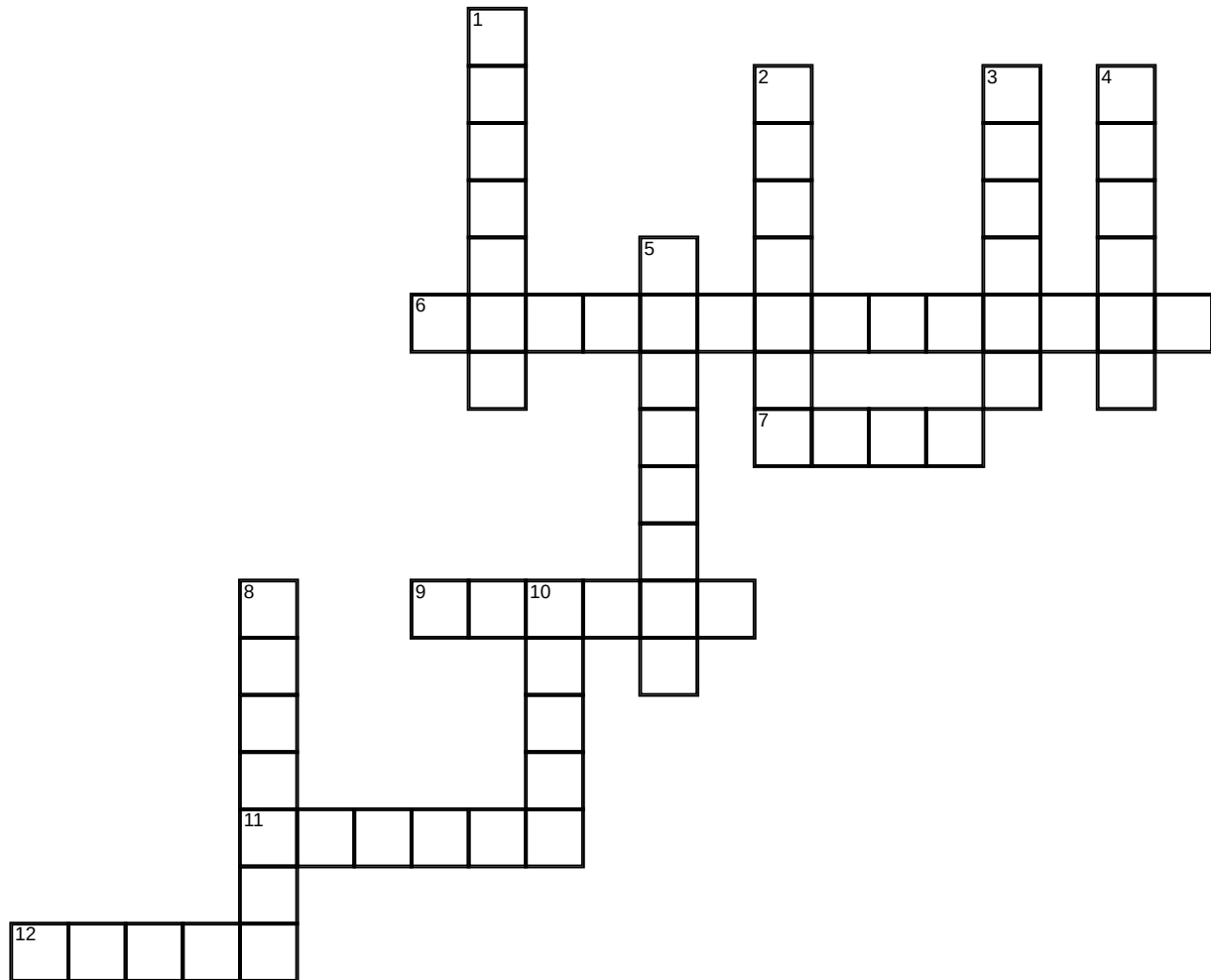
> Let’s praise God that churches have been planted in Russia! Pray He would raise up leaders and new believers to plant more churches. He knows exactly the right time for each one.

> Pray that peaceful ways can soon be found to end conflicts with other countries.

> Can God change the world in the blink of an eye? He sure can, if He chooses to. He sometimes chooses instead to use human beings (like you and me) to make changes in the world. For example, He used Moses to lead a huge number of people across a big desert to a new place to live. He used Paul to take the good news of Jesus to most of the known world. Guess what?! He still uses people who are faithful and obedient to Him! Pray that the Christians of Russia will live boldly for Jesus and walk in His ways, so that they too can do amazing things in the name of Jesus their King.

> Sometimes it’s helpful to hear about Jesus from someone who is just like you. Wouldn’t it be nice if women and young girls in Russia could hear about Jesus from a woman or a young girl like them? Ask God for Christian women who can teach other women about who He is and how they can invite Him into their hearts. Pray that God would strengthen their faith in Him and help them become teachers of others.

Week 1 Activity: Crossword



Across

- 6 Largest cat in the world that is popular in Russia- see coloring page
- 7 First name of the first human in outer space
- 9 Capital of Russia and location of the Kremlin
- 11 A popular video game invented in Russia
- 12 The national sport of Russia which is similar to ice hockey

Down

- 1 The biggest active medieval fortress in the world
- 2 In what month do Russians celebrate Christmas?
- 3 World's largest country
- 4 Number of different time zones in Russia
- 5 The official Russian church
- 8 Last name of one of Russia's famous writers
- 10 Russia's largest people group

WORD LIST:

BANDY
ELEVEN
JANUARY

KREMLIN
MOSCOW
ORTHODOX

RUSSIA
SIBERIAN_TIGER
SLAVS

TETRIS
TOLSTOY
YURI

02

Week 2: December 8-14, 2022

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

— Matthew 11:28, ICB



Week 2 Prayers



> Russia is the largest country in the world. It's so big that its borders reach into 11 time zones. You might need your dad or mom to explain a bit about that. Ask God to reveal Himself to people from each of the 180 people groups in Russia.

> Pray that God provides money needed for Christian work to be done in Russia. That way, the workers can do their part in getting the gospel message to those who have never heard it.

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

> 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. It's telling 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" and invite Jesus into their heart, if only someone would tell them about Him! Let's pray for more Christian workers in Russia because Jesus wants us to.

> 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 it.
- 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 them to become leaders too!

Ask God to raise up new Christian leaders in Russia.

> Join me in praying that all Russian Christians will read the Bible to learn what God wants them to do, then obey His teaching every day.

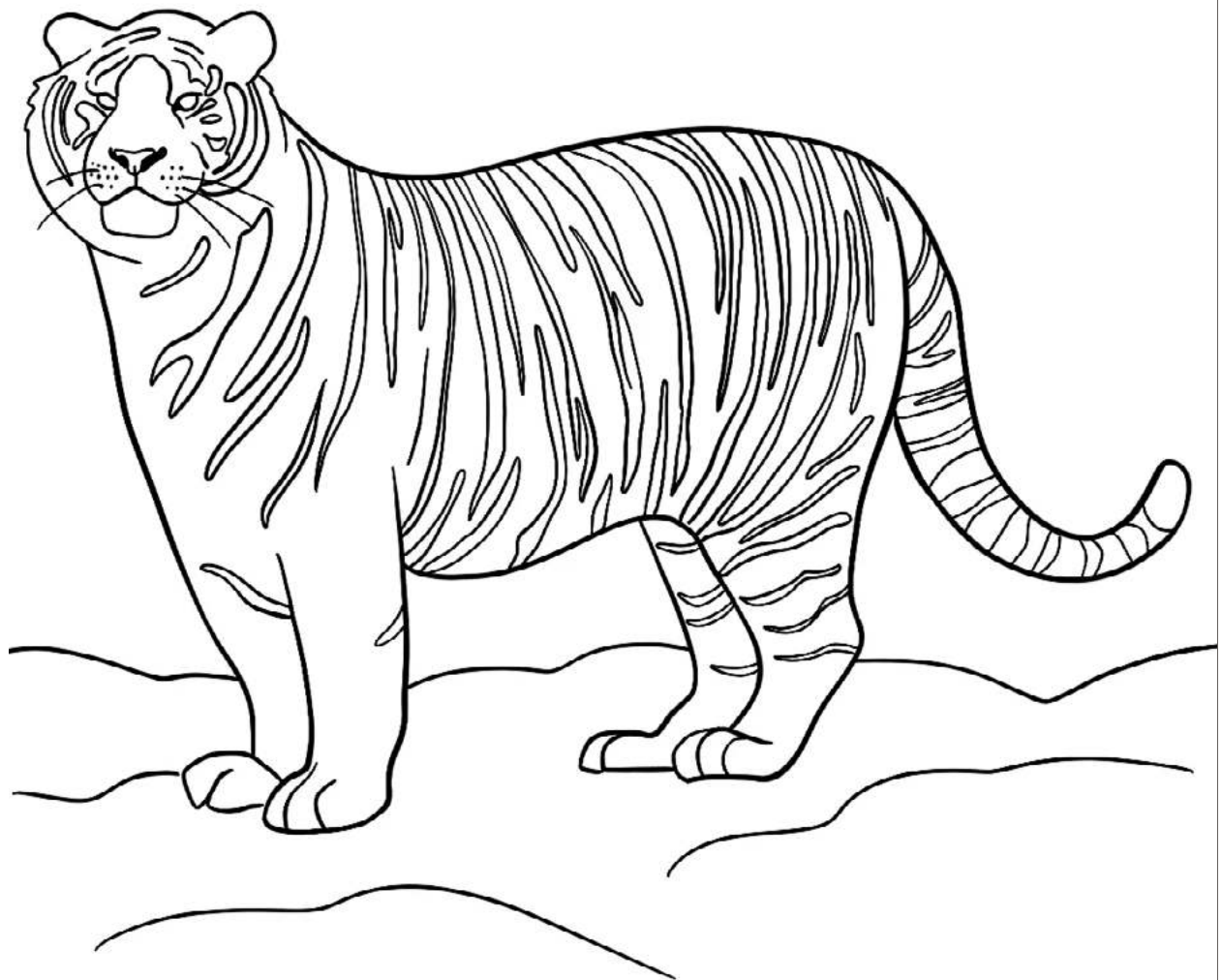
“So you must fully obey the Lord our God. You must follow all His laws and commands. You must continue to obey in the future as you do now.”

— 1 Kings 8:61, ICB

> 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 too can know that the God of the Bible wants to be their friend.

Week 2 Activity: Coloring Page

Siberian Tiger



03

Week 3: December 15–21, 2022

“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



Week 3 Prayers



- > Scripture prayers are great to pray for yourself, your family and friends, and for people far away. Pray this 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).
- > 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 family, friends and their communities.
- > Did you know that Christian churches do not earn an income for the work they do? 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 what they need.
- > Pray that Christians sharing the gospel with not-yet believers and helping new believers grow their faith will always be possible in Russia.
- > Pray that God leads Christians to talk to not-yet believers in Russia who really 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 invite Him into their hearts. May they grow into men and women who follow after God for all the days of their lives.
- > 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 the use of 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.
- > People often gather in groups made up of people like themselves, and especially 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 and discover God’s awesome love.

Week 3 Activity: Recipe

Easy Blini (Russian Pancake)

This blini recipe makes bite-sized pancakes that result in perfect appetizers. Top blini with smoked salmon, creme fraiche, or even caviar. Add a sprig of dill and they are sure to impress.

Prep Time: 10 mins Cook Time: 15 mins Total Time: 25 mins Servings: 5 Yield: 20 blini

Ingredients

1 cup all-purpose flour
¾ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon baking powder
¾ cup milk
2 tablespoons milk
1 large egg
1 tablespoon melted unsalted butter
1 tablespoon unsalted butter



Directions

Step 1

Combine flour, salt, and baking powder in a bowl.

Step 2

Whisk ¾ cup plus 2 tablespoons milk, egg, and 1 tablespoon melted butter together in a separate bowl. Mix into the flour mixture until the batter is fully combined.

Step 3

Heat 1 tablespoon butter in a large skillet over medium-low heat. Cooking several blini at a time, drop batter, one tablespoon at a time, onto the heated skillet. Cook until bubbles form, 1 ½ to 2 minutes. Flip and continue cooking until brown, about 1 minute more. Move to a paper towel-lined plate to help soak up excess butter.

Step 4

Repeat with the remaining batter.

Tips

Buckwheat flour can be substituted for 1/3 cup of the all-purpose flour for a more traditional taste.

From: <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/260537/easy-blini-russian-pancake/>

04

Week 4: December 22–28, 2022

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

— Psalm 33:8, ICB



Week 4 Prayers



> Pray for the work of Christian workers 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.

> Pray that God will put Christians near the country’s leaders to guide them to make wise decisions for their country.

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

> When Jesus came into the world as a baby and became a man, He showed people on earth how to know and trust His heavenly Father. But apart from this, Jesus had a really important mission on earth—He came to give up His life on the cross, take on our sins and forgive them. He did it so that we could have a relationship with our heavenly Father without the shame and guilt of sin. That is the reason that Jesus came as a baby (which we celebrate as Christmas). But that’s not all. Three days later He came out of the grave and rose to live again. Let’s pray this is the year many more people will understand this amazing truth.

> Sometimes we worry and are anxious about things. But if we belong to God, He is asking 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, collecting our tears.

> 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.

> 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

Week 4 Activity: Word Search

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

WORD LIST:

BANDY

ELEVEN

JANUARY

KREMLIN

MOSCOW

ORTHODOX

RUSSIA

SIBERIAN TIGER

SLAVS

TETRIS

TOLSTOY

YURI

05

Week 5: December 29–31, 2022

Week 5 Prayers



> 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 invited Jesus into our hearts, 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.

> Some jobs need a team of people. Planting a church is hard work made up of lots of jobs that need lots of people to help. Let's pray God brings together teams of people to plant churches in the country within reach of every person in Russia.

> Lord, we praise You for the opportunity to pray for Russia every day in December. We know that You love the people of Russia and desire that none in Russia should perish but that all should come to the saving knowledge of You. We look forward to the day when we see millions of Russians in heaven as a result of this month of prayer. We love You and give You all the glory and honor. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Resources

The Joshua Project has a tremendous amount of information about every country. This link will take you to Russia.
<https://joshuaproject.net/countries/RS>

PrayerCast has great prayer videos.
<https://www.prayercast.com/russia.html>

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.
<https://www.jesusfilm.org/watch/jesus.html/english.html>

We also have multiple other films and short films available.
<https://www.jesusfilm.org/watch.html>

For more Jesus Film Project® prayer resources—including access to each month's family prayer guide—point your phone's camera app here:



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