



WEEK 9

Missions around the Globe

Emphasis: Eastern Europe/

The Fall of Communism and Our Window of Opportunity

Introduction: In 1922, the Communists seized control of Eastern Europe and seventy years of oppression began. Christian faith was prohibited and believers were persecuted as the government pushed its message of atheism, equality, and communist power.

Finally, in 1991, the Soviet Union splintered into many different countries and the Communist government collapsed. Suddenly, the doors of religious freedom were opened wide and the people of Eastern Europe became a harvest field for the Gospel.

Now is an important time in mission history! We must take advantage of this window of opportunity. We will be studying Eastern Europe, the former oppression and recent fall of Communism, and how these events have impacted the task of world missions today.

LIBRARY AND MEDIA SEARCH

BOOK TITLES

- Operation World* by Patrick Johnstone
- You Can Change the World* by Jill Johnstone
- From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya* by Ruth A. Tucker

BOOK TOPICS

- Communism
- Eastern Europe
- The Soviet Union (USSR)
- The Commonwealth of Independent States (C.I.S.)
- Albania, Romania, Russia, Ukraine
- Azeris, Azerbaijan
- Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
- Kyrgystan, Kazakhstan
- Chernobyl
- Stalin, Lenin
- Ulfilas (see "Our Examples" from this guide)
- Technology in Eastern Europe
- Russian architecture
- Russian arts and crafts/Russian painted eggs
- Writing short skits/Creative writing

MUSIC

- Praise tape, such as the Russian version of "I'm so Wonderfully Made" by Integrity Music, Just For Kids.
- Russian adult praise tape

FAMILY VIDEOS

- Fiddler on the Roof*, *Night Crossing* (Disney)



Eastern Europe

DAY 41

WEEK 9 - MONDAY

Missions around the Globe

Emphasis: Eastern Europe, The Fall of Communism and Our Window of Opportunity

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

• OPENING EXERCISES/PRAYER

BIBLE READING: LEVITICUS 16:29-30, 17:8-15,
18:26-29

• FAMILY DISCUSSION

Were there provisions made in the law of God for the Gentiles as well as the people of Israel? How did God seem to view the stranger, or the Gentile, among them? Notice the inhabitants of other lands were destroyed because of their sins and abominations against God. Would this same destruction also happen to Israel if they turned against God's ways?

• PRAYER FOCUS

Pray and intercede for the country of Albania. Thank the Lord for renewed freedom in this land and for this window of opportunity to share the Gospel. Pray for more laborers to help turn the people from atheism to Christianity, rather than some other religion.

• MEMORY VERSE: NUMBERS 10:32

"And it shall be, if you go with us—indeed it shall be—that whatever good the Lord will do to us, the same we will do to you."

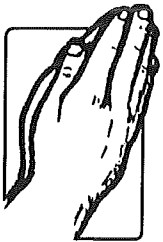
• PRAYER PROJECT

COMPARE EASTERN EUROPEAN MAPS

Look at an old map of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, and compare this to a current map of Europe today. Notice the new countries and pray for each of these by name. Pray for their new governments, their political leaders, and for the Gospel to go forth in

these countries. Pray missionaries would raise up many nationals in ministry who could be able to continue the work.

Praise God for these changes, and pray for God's will to be done throughout Eastern Europe.



READING/LANGUAGE ARTS

• READING

1. *Operation World*, pages 85-86.
2. *You Can Change the World*, pages 8-9.
3. Read about Communism in the former Soviet Union and throughout Eastern Europe.
4. *I Heard Good News Today*, page 33, "You Will Be Free."

• WRITING

Write a fictional story about a family living in Albania before the time of freedom. Convey a mood of despair, confusion and hopelessness without God.

• LANGUAGE ARTS

1. Carefully write the memory verse. Check for neatness and penmanship.
2. Select spelling words. Write these in your spelling notebook and use each word in a sentence.

GEOGRAPHY

1. Discuss how political maps and country boundaries can change. See today's prayer project, and study these maps carefully.
2. Notice how many city names changed along with country boundaries, such as Leningrad in the Soviet Union to St. Petersburg in Russia today.
3. Notice how large the country of Russia is. How many time zones does this country cover? How many time zones are in the United States?
4. What important mountain range separates Europe from Asia?

5. Notice how large Siberia is. In what area of Siberia are most of the cities located? Do you think all of this vast land is nothing but a barren snowy wilderness? What other cities in the world share a similar latitude with a major city in Siberia such as Khabarovsk or Irkutsk?

• GEOGRAPHY PROJECT

Trace a map of the former USSR, and then fill in the different countries that have declared their independence in recent years.

DAY 42

WEEK 9 - TUESDAY

Missions around the Globe

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

- **OPENING EXERCISES/PRAYER**

BIBLE READING: LEVITICUS 19:9-10, 19:33-34, 20:2-3, 22:18-23:22.

- **FAMILY DISCUSSION**

Continue to look for God's view of the "stranger among them." Could these Gentiles also offer sacrifices to God? Could they follow the law too? How did God show His love and compassion for all people, both Jew and Gentile, throughout His law?

- **PRAYER FOCUS**

Pray for the Azeris people of Azerbaijan (see *You Can Change the World*).

Intercede for the Muslim countries of Eastern Europe. Pray the eyes of these people be opened to see Jesus as God's Son and their need for a personal, living Savior.

- **BIBLE MEMORY:**

Review Numbers 10:32. Talk about how these words (spoken from Moses to a Gentile relative named Hobab) can apply to Christians today. As the Lord blesses us so we should bless others!

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS

- **READING**

1. *Operation World*, pages 105-106.

2. *You Can Change the World*, pages 10-11.

3. Read a book about one of the Muslim countries that newly declared independence from the former Soviet Union, such as Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgystan, or Kazakhstan.

- **WRITING**

Write a short skit about a young person in Eastern Europe. In this skit, include how the people formerly had their freedom stripped, Bibles taken away, and how many Christians were persecuted. Include a summary detailing the freedom they have now from Communism, as well as freedom to embrace religion. What will we do now? Will we take advantage of this window of opportunity? Make your skit motivating and moving, then perform it for your family or your church youth group.

- **LANGUAGE ARTS**

Emphasize creative writing style using expression and persuasion in your writing and skit performance.

HISTORY

Focus on the major historical events of Eastern Europe. Discuss how the rise of communism devastated the spread of Christianity and about the humanistic and atheistic ideals of communism.

When communism fell and the Iron Curtain finally opened to the Gospel, what was the spiritual reaction? Why do you think the people of Eastern Europe were (and are) so hungry for Christianity?

- **MARK YOUR TIMELINE**

1917 - Russian Tsarist empire collapsed

1922 - Founding of the USSR

1986 - Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe in the Ukraine

1991 - Break-up of the former Soviet Union (USSR)

- **IMPORTANT SUBJECTS FOR STUDY**

Communism

The Iron Curtain

Chernobyl

Stalin

Lenin

DAY 43

WEEK 9 - WEDNESDAY

Missions around the Globe

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

- OPENING EXERCISES/PRAYER

BIBLE READING: LEVITICUS 24:16-22, 25:23, 26:45, NUMBERS 9:14

- FAMILY DISCUSSION

In Leviticus 25:23, who does God say the land of Canaan actually belongs to? Notice in Leviticus 26:45 that God says He brought Israel out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that He might be their God. How do these verses show God's heart for all people? Why did the people of Israel celebrate the Passover? How is this feast a shadow of Jesus Christ? Could Gentile people also keep the Passover feast?

- PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for the country of Romania.

- BIBLE MEMORY

Review Numbers 10:32.

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS

- READING

1. *You Can Change the World*, pages 78-79.

2. *Operation World*, pages 463-465.

3. *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya*, pages 35-38. Ulfilas was a foreign missionary in the early centuries to the Goths (a barbaric tribe living in the area of modern Romania).

4. Read a Christian biography about someone from Russia—possibly someone who suffered persecution during the time of Communism.

- WRITING

Plan and write a five-minute speech titled, "If I Were a Missionary to Eastern Europe." Include a brief summary of the historical changes in this area of the world, including the fall of Communism and today's tremendous hunger for the Gospel. Possible ideas: What would I do? Where would I go and why? What response would I see?

Practice this speech several times and then record on video or audio tape. Watch or listen to the tape and evaluate your speech skills.

- LANGUAGE ARTS

1. Emphasize public speaking.

2. Review your spelling/vocabulary words.

- FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Work on a few foreign phrases in Russian, such as:
Thank You—Russian Pronunciation: Spa-cee-ba
Jesus is Lord—Russian Pronunciation: Ee-sus Goss-pote
Praise the Lord!—Russian Pronunciation: Sla-va Bo-go

MATH

- EASTERNEUROPE TIME ZONE CALCULATION

Look at the number of different time zones across Eastern Europe.

Pick various times (noon, midnight, 3:46 A.M., 9:30 P.M., 7:14 A.M. etc.) and then figure the difference in several locations throughout Eastern Europe.

SCIENCE

- RUSSIAN ARCHITECTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Look at Russian architecture with its massive buildings and statues.

2. Look at examples of how Eastern Europe is technologically behind much of the Western World (in areas such as hospitals, telephones, cars, transportation, television, etc.) despite Russia being one of the world's super powers. How do you think communism could stifle scientific advances and the quest for personal achievement?

3. What happened at the Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe in the Ukraine? How was this dangerous?

DAY 44

WEEK 9 - THURSDAY

Missions around the Globe

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

- OPENING EXERCISES/PRAYER

BIBLE READING: NUMBERS 12

- FAMILY DISCUSSION

Why were Aaron and Miriam speaking against Moses? What did God think of their accusations? How does this passage show that God is not a respecter of persons—despite their race? What happened to Miriam as a result of her accusations?

- PRAYER FOCUS

Ask God to give you a love for people of other races and nationalities. Pray you would be filled with His attitude of love and for any negative prejudices to be removed.

Pray for missionaries or organizations who are working in Eastern Europe right now.

- BIBLE MEMORY

Review Numbers 10:32 and take a written practice test in preparation for tomorrow.

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS

- READING

1. *You Can Change the World*, pages 92-93.

2. *Operation World*, pages 570-571 about Uzbekistan, and pages 50-52 about Eurasia.

3. Read about communism in Eastern Europe and the former religious oppression and persecution.

4. Read a news magazine or newspaper article about Eastern Europe or look at a missions magazine which tells about the spiritual condition in the former Soviet Union.

- WRITING

After talking and thinking about the fall of communism in Eastern Europe and its effect on Christianity, write a poem about the importance of freedom of religion. Try to

express feelings and emotions in your poem. Possible themes: Why is freedom important? What religious freedom means to you. Daily life without this freedom.

- LANGUAGE ARTS

1. Look at examples of poetry before you start writing. How are these poems arranged? What type of poem do you want to write? Emphasize creativity and free expression.

2. Take a practice spelling test. Use each word in a sentence orally.

MUSIC

Listen to music of Russian praise such as the children's Russian praise tape by Integrity Music, Just for Kids (Russian Version of "I'm So Wonderfully Made" by the Donut man) or a Russian adult praise and worship tape. See if you can recognize any of the tunes.

As you hear this praise tape rejoice in the knowledge that many Russians are coming to the Lord.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

- ART

1. Look at examples of Russian arts and crafts such as the stacking wooden Babushka dolls or painted Russian eggs.

2. Look at Russian religious art, and Icons of the Russian Orthodox church. How does this religious art compare with the medieval or Renaissance art of Western Europe?

- CRAFT: UKRAINIAN EGGS

Take an egg and make a small hole on both ends and blow out the insides. Paint an elaborate design on the egg with hot wax (or with a color crayon), then dip it in a colored die.



DAY 45

WEEK 9 - FRIDAY

Missions around the Globe

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

- **OPENING EXERCISES/PRAYER**

BIBLE READING: NUMBERS 22

- **FAMILY DISCUSSION**

What amazing thing happened to Balaam as he was riding on his donkey? If God could use a donkey to speak forth His word, don't you think He could use anyone?

Discuss how God spoke to the prophet Balaam, a man who was not even from Israel. How does this show God's dealings with all people? Look at Balaam's blessing on Israel and how this experience caused Balaam to worship God.

- **PRAYER FOCUS**

Pray for the nation of Russia. Pray for the leaders of this influential country and for continued freedom. Pray this country would have economic stability and God would meet the physical and spiritual needs of Russian Christians. Ask him for a continued harvest of souls in this country and for many new churches to rise up to disciple and train new believers.

- **BIBLE MEMORY**

Test: Write Numbers 10:32. Explain how this verse can apply to our responsibility of sharing the Gospel with others.

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS

- **READING**

1. *Operation World*, pages 466-471 about Russia and pages 53-54 about Eurasia.

2. Read about the fall of the former USSR.

3. Read a book about Russia.

- **WRITING**

Write a four-minute script for a television news report about the fall of the Soviet Union. Discuss its effect on freedom and the spreading of the Gospel. Decide if you are writing for a Christian or secular station.

Pick a name for your station and a city where you will be reporting from. ("This is Joe Smith of New Life Network News, reporting live from St. Petersburg, Russia...") Use a current newspaper to find information. Practice giving your report then record on video.

- **LANGUAGE ARTS**

Spelling Test: Write misspelled words five times. Explain spelling rules of misspelled words. Take a retest on these words only.

INTERNATIONAL MEAL

- **AREA EMPHASIS: RUSSIA**

Russia

BORSCH (BEET AND CABBAGE SOUP)

Chop until fine:

1/2 cup pared carrots

1 cup skinned onions

2 cups pared beets

Barely cover these with boiling water and simmer covered about 20 minutes.

Add to the above mixture:

1 Tbs. butter

2 cups beef stock

1 cup finely shredded cabbage

1 Tbs. vinegar

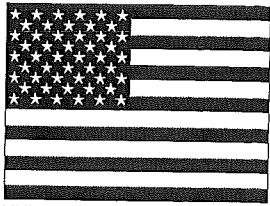
Simmer 15 minutes.

Garnish with sour cream mixed with grated cucumber. Serve with pumpernickel bread.

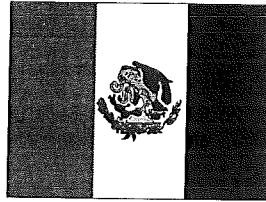
FAMILY VIDEO NIGHT

Night Crossing (Disney)

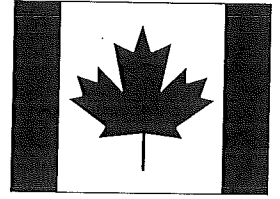
Fiddler on the Roof (set in a Russian village)



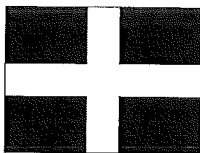
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



MEXICO



CANADA



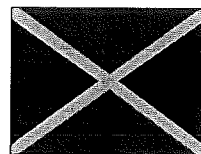
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



PUERTO RICO



HAITI



JAMAICA



CUBA

North America