Four missions experiences on energizing efforts to bring people to Christ

Location: Russia

Focus verse: Those who live far away are awed by your signs; You make east and west shout for joy. Psalm 65:8 (HCSB)

Overall message: The Culkins* are Christian workers in Russia. Partnering with Russian Christians, they used their enthusiasm for Jesus to build a youth camp from scratch for Siberian kids. In Russia that means digging latrines (outdoor toilets), building shelters and pitching tents. It wasn’t easy work, but God gave them the energy to do it so that people could hear about Him. This set of missions experiences highlights how a week of high-intensity team building encouraged youth to set their minds on Jesus. Kids On Mission will explore ways to use their energy for eternal purposes.

*Names changed

Before you begin: This resource is a collection of experiences to plug your kids into global missions. The leader’s guide includes plans for four, short missions experiences designed to last 10 to 15 minutes. Add these to existing children’s programs or combine them for a longer missions focus. Through these experiences, kids will learn about other cultures and also about developing lifelong patterns of praying, giving and being personally involved in God’s plan to reach all nations.

Names of Christians around the world or Christian workers are often changed or withheld to protect the spread of the gospel.

KOM writer: G.G. Mathis is a veteran children's Bible study, missions and VBS writer, testing her teaching ideas on boys and girls at Forest Park Baptist Church in Joplin, Missouri. When she's not working or writing, there’s either a cat, a book or a cup of tea in her lap.
New Energy
Experience 1

Prepare
• From the DVD-ROM or kidsonmission.org, prepare to show the Ready, Set, Go! video.
• Download and print the New Energy focus verse, Russia map and the Ready, set, go circles. Cut out the circles and tape to pencils, craft sticks or rulers. Leave the focus verse posted in your room to refer to in each experience.
• Clear space for an active game. Build two makeshift obstacle courses with chairs, tables and wastebaskets.
• Provide two rolls of masking tape.

Introduction
Show kids the Ready, set, go circles and teach them how to pronounce the three phrases:
на старт (ready: nah start)
внимание (set: VNEE-mon-yay)
марш (go: marsh)
Form two teams. Provide masking tape and lead everyone on each team to “link up” by taping their ankles together. Using the Russian terms to start the race, challenge teams to work their way through the obstacle course without breaking the masking tape links. Display the Russia map. Tell kids that an energetic team of Christians helped kids in Russia get ready to set their minds on Jesus so they can go tell others about Him!

Ready, set, go!
• Tell kids that they will meet Christian workers Paula Culkin and her son, Evan, who has grown up in Russia. The Culkin family works with Russian Christians to tell people about Jesus.
• Show kids the Ready, set, go! video.
• Display the на старт (ready) circle. Ask: How did camp leaders get ready for the week?
• Display the внимание (get set) circle. Ask: What did leaders do at camp to help kids set their minds on Jesus?
• Display the марш (go) circle. Ask: Why is it difficult for kids in Russia to go and tell others about Jesus?

Pray
Read the New Energy focus verse together. Guide kids to pray for Bible camp leaders in Russia. Ask God to give them energy and creativity as they plan for the next camp.
Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM or kidsonmission.org, prepare to show (or replay) the Ready, Set, Go! video.
- From the DVD-ROM or kidsonmission.org, download, print and display the Camp photos.
- Bring an inflated beach ball or soft foam playground ball.

Recap
The Culkins* are Christian workers in Russia. Along with Russian Christians, they used their enthusiasm for Jesus to build a youth camp from scratch for Siberian kids. In Russia that means digging latrines (outdoor toilets), building shelters and pitching tents. It wasn’t easy work, but God gave them the energy to do it so that people could hear about Him.

Eyes off, ears on!
- Use the Camp photos to overview or review how missionaries in Russia used a week at summer camp to teach kids about Jesus and inspire them to share Him with others.
- If kids have previously seen the Ready, set, go! video, prompt them to watch the replay with “eyes off, ears on” (close eyes and listen only to the audio). Challenge them to listen closely for words and ideas that will help them pray for the Russian kids who attended the Bible camp.
- Call for volunteers to share their observations.

Breaking in
- Direct kids to form a circle. They should face outward and link arms.
- One player will stand outside the circle with the beach ball or foam ball. His task is to get the ball inside the circle.
- The other players must stay linked, but may duck and move in order to block the ball.
- Repeat with other “outsiders” as time permits.
- Call attention to Evan Culkin’s observation that in Russia, one kid may be the only Christian in a school with 500 students. Encourage kids to discuss what it would be like to be a Christian “outsider” in Russia.

continued on next page
**Pray**

- Prompt kids to be seated, still facing outward.
- Kids will pass the ball around the circle. As each person receives the ball, she may say a short sentence prayer for the Russian kids who attended camp. (Don’t require kids to pray aloud; they may pass the ball silently if they prefer to do so.)
- Close with a prayer of your own. Ask God to give young Russian believers the courage to speak about their faith.
Prepare
• Download and print the Photo puzzles. Cut the puzzles apart; keep separate in envelopes or zip-locking bags.

Recap
The Culkins* are Christian workers in Russia. Along with Russian Christians, they used their enthusiasm for Jesus to build a youth camp from scratch for Siberian kids. In Russia that means digging latrines (outdoor toilets), building shelters and pitching tents. It wasn’t easy work, but God gave them the energy to do it so that people could hear about Him.

Contagious joy
• Call attention to the New Energy focus verse and lead kids to read it aloud with you.
• Comment that genuine joy is contagious, and the Russian camp staff hopes kids will carry the joy of knowing Jesus wherever they go.
• Let kids discuss times they have shared joy with someone, cheered someone up or funny times when one person was laughing, so others started laughing too.

Puzzling thoughts
• Remind kids that the youth camps, in part, are possible because generous Christians give to missions. Tell kids they can solve some puzzles that will remind them about other things that happen because people give.
• Form as many groups as you have puzzles. Lead kids to work together to solve the puzzles and describe each scene.
• Ask kids to begin removing random pieces from the puzzles until the scene is unrecognizable. Say: When pieces are missing, the picture isn’t complete. When Christians do not give their tithes and offerings, it is more difficult for Christian workers to complete the work God has given them.

Pray
Lead kids to pray that God would provide Christians in Russia with the money, resources and volunteer help they need to do their work.
New Energy
Experience 4

Prepare
• From the DVD-ROM or kidsonmission.org, prepare to show the Camp highlights video as a review of the ministry in Russia.
• From the DVD-ROM or kidsonmission.org, download and print Paper clip toppers on heavyweight paper.
• Bring a box of jumbo paper clips and quick-drying tacky craft glue.
• Provide one index card per person.

Recap
The Culkins* are Christian workers in Russia. Along with Russian Christians, they used their enthusiasm for Jesus to build a youth camp from scratch for Siberian kids. In Russia that means digging latrines (outdoor toilets), building shelters and pitching tents. It wasn’t easy work, but God gave them the energy to do it so that people could hear about Him.

It takes a team
• Prepare to show the Camp highlights video.
• Before you play the video, prompt kids to watch for every activity kids did in teams or small groups. Lead them to share what they saw.
• Comment that God did not intend for His followers to be alone. Not only is He with them, He provides Christian friends to encourage and pray for one another.
• Lead kids to discuss how they can be a support team to the young Christians (and soon-to-be-Christians) they’ve “met” in these KOM experiences.

You’re not alone!
• Tell kids that one of the best things they can do to serve anyone is to be an encourager and friend, especially to someone experiencing a tough time.
• Distribute jumbo clips and strips of Paper clip toppers. Encourage kids to cut out the circles and adhere them to the tops of the clips with small dabs of glue. Explain that the word on the circle means friend in Russian and is pronounced droog.
• Lead kids to slide the clips onto index cards while the glue continues to dry. Suggest that they look for opportunities to present a clip to someone who needs a little encouragement.

continued on next page
• Propose to your “crafty” kids that they make additional clips at home and keep a supply on hand to slide onto classmates’ notebooks.

• Encourage Kids On Mission to identify other ways they can be encouragers.

**Pray**

Ask God to show each Kid On Mission someone who needs a loving friend. Pray that kids enthusiastically and consistently show love and friendship to others.
More ideas using this theme

- Download and print the New Energy parent letter. Give to parents so they can help kids extend their missions experiences through family activities.
- Provide time, space and equipment for kids to re-create one of the crazy relay races featured in the video and video feature. Perhaps they can use these games in their own camp settings or during a special event, like VBS.
- For your own research or to provide additional stories about on-mission happenings in Russia, see the European Peoples resources at europeanpeoples.imb.org.
- One survey of the most popular sports in Russia included chess in its top ten. For some inter-generational interaction, invite senior adults who play the game to teach your kids the basics. Once they’ve mastered the moves, spend an on-mission afternoon ministering to players at a senior center.
- Don’t forget to visit kidsonmission.org for more activities and KOM experiences you might have missed. Also, like us on Facebook and see how other churches are using KOM.