

MISSIONARY LESSONS
FOR MISSION MINDED KIDS

KEN SEARS
SERVING IN UKRAINE

Ken Sears
Zaporozhye, Ukraine



Ken Sears in Ukraine

Goals for Lesson:

- Students will be introduced to Ken Sears, E.C. Missionary to Ukraine.
- Children will understand that God can take even the difficult experiences of our lives and use them to prepare us to serve Him in ways we will not know until later.
- Children will learn from Ken's favorite verse that when they give themselves to Jesus, He will never turn them away or reject them.

Verse for Ken Sears:

"Everyone whom my Father gives me will come to me. I will never turn away anyone who comes to me."

John 6:37

Ken says, "This is a scripture verse that has been special to me ever since I first came to the Lord. Maybe it was because of the way I moved all the time growing up and always felt like a stranger. This verse spoke powerfully to me as a young new believer about the permanence of Jesus' love, that He would never pack up and move out of my life, that His commitment to me was forever."

Before Class:

- Read through lesson and decide what you will use according to your age group and time allotted.
- Back Ken's picture and the picture of the Ukrainian woman with cardstock for stability, or prepare them as slides to show the children. If you are interested, you may be able to obtain an individual copy of his prayer card for each of your children by calling the GMC Office (717-866-7584) or by emailing Ken directly at scriobhaim@yahoo.co.uk
- Locate a globe or a world map to show the children where Ukraine is.
- Write Ken's verse on a large sheet of paper or on a blackboard. Make copies of the Ukrainian alphabet page and have pencils available for use. Even non-readers can practice making the strange symbols and appreciate the different sounds and symbols of another language. If you plan to allow your students to hear the scripture being read in Ukrainian, look up the website and find the portion you want to play for them. Set up any equipment you will need in your classroom to allow them to hear the voice recording.
- If you will be using the Russian song, practice it before hand and make copies of the song page for each child. If your children are older and interested in some language translation, you can make copies of the second sheet as well.
- Make copies of the other activities you plan to use in class or send home and gather colored pencils or fine point markers if you will be coloring the pysanky egg pictures.

Lesson Plan:

- Begin lesson time with prayer.
- Show Ken's prayer card picture and locate Ukraine on a globe or world map.
- Tell or read the story about Ken, discussing or explaining as necessary.
- Introduce Ken's verse and say it a couple of times together. Read the note about what the verse means to Ken, written under the verse on page one. Take some time to discuss why it is his favorite verse. Give the children a copy of the Ukrainian Alphabet sheet. Point out the differences in the Ukrainian symbols (unlike Spanish which uses the English letters). Talk about how God's Word is still His Word, even if we can't understand it. If you can, let them listen to a portion of scripture in Ukrainian. Give them a few minutes to practice copying the Ukrainian symbols that spell out Ken's verse. *This website will let you listen to the New Testament in many different languages. Make sure it is set for Ukrainian by clicking the first down arrow and typing in the search languages box. It will automatically begin at Matthew Chapter 1. If you want, you can set it to begin just before Ken's verse and let the children listen to the words printed on their handouts.* <http://www.biblegateway.com/audio/fcbh/N2ESV/Matt.1>
- Show the picture of the Ukrainian woman and talk about how ornate her clothing is. Explain that this is no longer the way they dress for every day, but that they wear the old traditional clothing for special holidays and dances and celebrations.
- If some of your class attended the children's track of the October 2010 Fall Family Missions Rally, they may remember singing "This is the Day" with Ken and Kurt Graff in Russian. Using the pronunciations and explanations he has written for us, try singing the song together. The younger students will appreciate trying to fit the unfamiliar syllables into the familiar tune. The older students will appreciate the language and translation information Ken gave us on the second sheet.
- Talk about the ancient art of decorating the pysanky (pih-sahn-key) eggs, and use those coloring sheets and the map either in class, or as take home activities.
- End your time together in prayer for Ken and his students and the people of Ukraine. Also, pray over the children, that God would use their life circumstances to prepare them for their future, and that they would hear His call upon their lives.

Story for Ken Sears in Ukraine

Ken Sears is our E.C. missionary to Ukraine. **(Show Ken's Prayer Card picture and find Ukraine on a world map or globe)** You may have noticed that Ken's last name is like the store named "Sears". Maybe you have gone shopping in a Sears store. Well, when Ken was growing up, his dad, Mr. Sears, worked for the J.C. Penney store, which was very similar to, and always a rival of the Sears store. So it was always a joke that Mr. Sears worked for J.C. Penney's. J.C. Penney's was a good place to work, but Ken's dad was asked many times to move to a new store in a new town. Because of that, Ken and his sister and three brothers moved almost every two years. Ken was the oldest of his siblings, and they lived in many different towns in New Jersey, all around Long Island and New York City, and even for two years in Centerville, Ohio. He got so used to moving around and starting over in a new school that it just seemed normal to him. He learned how to make new friends and adapt to different places, although he always felt like an outsider and a stranger. No matter where he was, he always loved to read comic books and ride his bicycle and sing.

Ken's family ancestors were from Ireland, and they had all grown up in the Catholic Church. As a boy, Ken served as an altar boy in each Catholic Church they moved to and he found a sense of stability and constancy at church. His soul was hungry, but the older he grew, the emptier his religion seemed to leave him. Although he knew about Jesus, Ken had never been told that he was able to have a personal, meaningful, deep relationship with the Son of God. In college, Ken started to read the New Testament for himself, and through the influence of a young man he worked with, he gave his heart and his life to Jesus, and began to follow Him earnestly.

In 1987, Ken decided to attend our E.C. seminary in Myerstown, and pursue a pastoral ministry. During his time in seminary, Ken took a six-week mission trip to Ireland, the land of his ancestry. That summer planted a deep spark in his heart for missionary work in Europe. Europe is mostly non-Christian today and there are many millions of Europeans who have never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ clearly and personally. The desire to serve the Lord in Europe grew and grew in his heart, and in 1992 he decided to go ahead with the procedure for becoming an EC missionary. During this time, Ken was serving as an assistant pastor in one of our E.C. churches.

Within a few years, Ken found himself living in Ukraine. Languages had always come easy to Ken, so learning Ukrainian and Russian to add to his English, French and Irish just became part of his new job. He began teaching in an Evangelical Seminary in the city of

Zaporozhye (Zah-pore-*osia:like Asia*). He has taught many subjects in his years at the seminary. He helps to prepare young Ukrainian students to minister to their own people, by teaching them classes in theology and teaching them to speak English. His favorite course to teach is the Book of Matthew.

Each day is different and interesting for Ken. His life is full of teaching and helping his students and friends. Because of his ease with languages, he can often help people do research or translate things into other languages. When the seminary has breaks, he travels around to many places in Ukraine and the surrounding countries. He preaches at different churches, attends and teaches Bible studies, and since he still loves to sing, he sings in the churches whenever he has the chance. He likes the Ukrainian people and has many good friends that he spends time visiting with. There are many other people in Ukraine that do not know Ken and do not know about Jesus. One of the ways that Ken gets to meet new people is by offering English classes to them. This gives him a chance to get to know them and to share the story of Jesus with them so that one day they too can be our brothers and sisters in Christ.

God has used the circumstances of Ken's life to prepare him to become a missionary far from home. Ken learned from an early age to be able to adapt quickly to changes and to make new friends and not become too attached to a particular place or routine. God gave Ken the gift of languages and of singing, both of which He has been able to use to lead others to Himself. Although we never know how our lives will turn out, and we never can be totally prepared for a new experience beforehand, when we trust God with our circumstances and our lives, He has a remarkable way of turning them into good for His sake, and using our lives to bless the lives of others.

Please pray for Ken as he serves God by ministering to the Ukrainian people. Also, pray that God will use the talents He has given you and the experiences of your life to show many other people the way to find Jesus.

“This is the Day”

Praising God in Russian

**This is the song Ken taught the children to sing in Russian at the Fall Family Missions Rally in October of 2010. If any of your children were there, they may remember it. If not, it is also fun to learn without Ken. Since the Russian letters are not recognizable sounds to English speakers, Ken has written out the sounds of the words using English letters so that we can “read” the sounds and pronounce the Russian words. Both the Russian and the Ukrainian languages are commonly used in the area where Ken teaches, so singing praise songs in Russian would be a common occurrence.*

Vote eh-tuh dyen, vote eh-tuh dyen

Saht-vah-reel gah-spode, saht-vah-reel gah-spode

Nah rah-dust nahm, nah rah-dust nahm

Ee veh-seh-lee-yeh, ee veh-seh-lee-yeh

Vote eh-tuh-dyen saht-vah-reel ga-ah-spode

Nah rah-dust nahm ee veh-seh-lee-ee-yeh

Vote eh-tuh dyen, vote eh-tuh dyen

Saht-vah-reel gah-spode.

Below is Ken's explanation of the translated words, and some interesting observations about the Russian language. You can tell that Ken loves languages and how they work.

Vote

eh-tuh

dyen

Behold/Look

this

day

(In Russian, they don't have to say "is" after "this" and they don't even have a word that means "the".)

Saht -vah-reel

gah-spode

Created

Lord

(In Russian, the order of words isn't as important as in English, so you can put the verb before the subject. So here it says, "Created Lord", but it means "The Lord created".)

Nah

rah-dust

nahm

For

joy

to us

Ee

veh-seh-lee-yeh

And fun/delight/happiness (*hard to translate with one English word*)

(Did you notice that "and" is pronounced exactly the same in Russian as in Spanish?)

This is the Ukrainian Alphabet. It is not easily compared with our own, although some symbols look similar. Ken's verse, John 6:37, taken from the Ukrainian Bible is printed below the alphabet. Practice writing the symbols to copy Ken's verse as his students would write it.

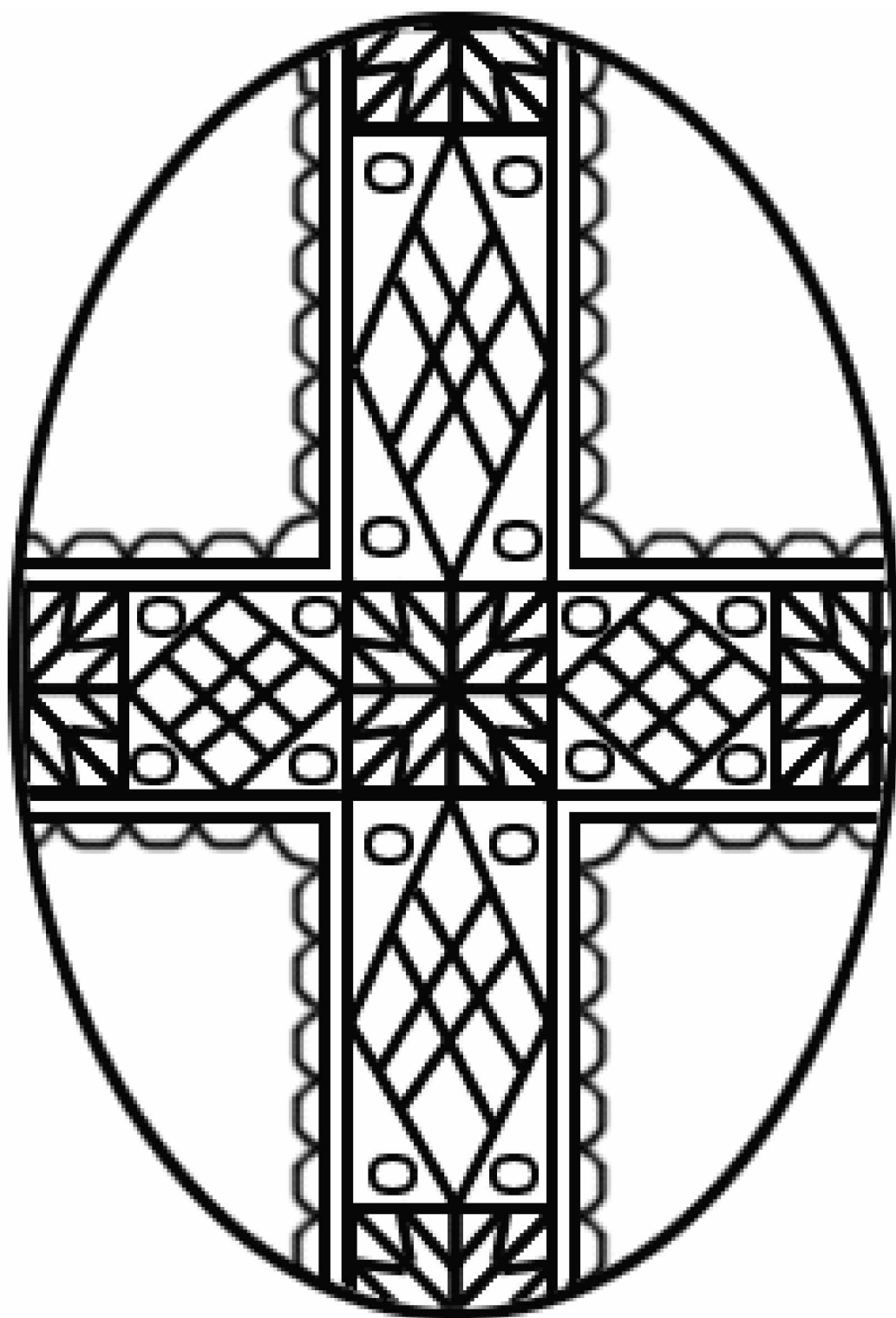
А а	Б б	В в	Г г	Ґ ґ	Д д	Е е	Є є	Ж ж	З з	И и	І і
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a	b	v	h	g	d	e	je	ž	z	y	i
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u	f	x	c	č	š	šč	'	ju	ja	"	
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Йоан 6:37 Ukrainian Bible (UKR)

Усе прийде до Мене, що Отець дає Мені, а того, хто до Мене приходить, Я не вижену геть.

6:37

"Everyone whom my Father gives me will come to me. I will never turn away anyone who comes to me." John 6:37



Color this beautiful Ukrainian Easter Egg. It is handmade with many layers of wax and dyes on an empty eggshell which has been blown and washed clean. The artist makes a small round hole in each end of the egg and blows the insides out so that it can be kept for many years. This traditional artwork is called Pysanky. (pih-sahn-key)



Pysanky (pih-sahn-key) is the ancient Ukrainian art of egg decorating. The name comes from the word "write", as you use a stylus to write with wax on the egg shell. After writing with wax and then dipping the egg into a different color many times over, the egg has a great deal of wax on it. Then, using a candle flame, the wax is melted away, revealing the colors that were protected underneath. This results in a brilliantly colored and often very intricately designed egg.

