

Key Stage 3 Lesson

Yes! Tak! Da!

Introduction

When a visitor comes to Russia, they not only hear people speaking a new language, they see words written down in a different alphabet. Some of the letters look like ours, but many don't. Can you guess what this word means?

МакДоналдс



(See flash card in the pack – Fold the flash card lengthways to conceal the answer – and then unfold to reveal. If you would prefer a colour version of the card, you can download a .pdf file and print it yourself from the Yes! Tak! Da! Section of the PCI Youth and Children's website: pciyac.org/yacproject)

Some words in Russian are easy to learn.

Thank you in Russian is spaceba – pronounced spa-see-ba
Try to say that together

The word for Yes in Russian is Da.

So, Yes thank you! would be Da spaceba!

In Ukranian, the word for Yes, is Tak. That's why we have called the project this year,

Yes! Tak! Da!

The Yes-No game

The idea is to get the group to say “Yes” or “No” by asking them a series of questions. They must answer truthfully, but not use the words “Yes” or “No”.

This game can be played in various ways. Here are two suggestions:

1. Give each person three dried peas. Circulating among the group, you must try to get each other to say “Yes” or “No” by asking questions. If you say “Yes” or “No”, you give your questioner one of your peas. The winner after an agreed length of time is the person with the most peas. They get a suitable prize.
2. Appoint a questioner. They invite “contestants” to the front, and ask the questions. If the contestant says “Yes” or “No”, the questioner sounds a horn or rings a bell, and a new contestant comes up. However, if the contestant survives (say) 7 questions, then they become the questioner, and the first questioner is out.

Sample questions to start with.

- OK – we are about to start. Do you understand the rules?
- What is your name? Is that right?
- Do you like chips?
- Have you ever been to McDonalds?
- Is Liverpool the greatest team in the Premiership?
- Etc.

Bible focus on the word "Yes"

Here are two stories where some people responded to Jesus by saying "Yes".

Read the first story with the group. Acts 9:1-19

Make sure the group know that Saul was Paul's name before he became a Christian. Explain that as a religious Jew, he thought at first that Christians were dangerous, and had to be imprisoned or killed. Saul was known widely for his ruthless treatment of Christians. Then introduce Ananias who we will focus on.

He was already a believer in Jesus (10)
God spoke, and he answered. His answer was "Yes".

Sometimes God asks his followers to do scary things. Examples might include speaking up for Jesus in school, or even more. You might like to mention the story of Cassie Bernall, the subject of the best selling book, *"She said Yes"*. Publishers' Weekly writes:

"One of the most gripping stories to come out of the shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado., is that of Cassie Bernall: when asked by the gunmen whether she believed in God, she answered yes and then was shot point-blank. Hours after the story emerged, Cassie was hailed a martyr by news media and Christian groups around the world."

Ananias was asked to go to see a man who had been responsible for the deaths of many Christians. Can you imagine how he must have felt? He hesitates (13-14) but God insists (15).

Think of ways we can say Yes to Jesus each day.

- By not giving in to temptation
- By controlling our temper
- By giving some of our pocket money to God's work
- By reading the Bible to learn about God
- By praying which helps us get to know Jesus better
- By being a friend to a new boy or girl at school
- By trusting Jesus to forgive us

This project is going to help many thousands of Russian and Ukrainian children and young people say Da! or Tak! to Jesus, just as you learn to do when you go to Sunday School and Church.

Read the second story with the group. John 11:17-27

(**NOTE** Since this story involves the death of a loved one, leaders will wish to be sensitive to the family situations of their group.)

Martha and Mary's brother Lazarus has died. They are very sad, and disappointed that Jesus did not come earlier. They believed that he could have healed Lazarus, so that he would not have died in the first place.

What words would you use to describe how Mary and Martha were feeling?
(Confused, Angry, Sad, Helpless, Tired, etc)

Jesus' question to Martha in vs.25-26 was to help her understand something important about Jesus himself, and what he came to do. Can you describe what this is?

(Refer to the DVD if you have seen it.) Many of the street children who live in Russia die because they have no-one to look after them. Thank God that we have families to care for us. Pray for Olga and her team who work with street kids in St Petersburg, that many of them will come to know the life that God gives us in Christ.

Activity idea

The Language Challenge

Answers for the Language Challenge

Answers

- Jesus
- Jerusalem
- Pharisee
- Nazareth
- Galilee
- Joseph
- Apostle