

Ramadan

PRAYER GUIDE FOR MUSLIMS



INTERNATIONAL
MISSION BOARD



Let's pray during Ramadan

A stab of hunger pain—it's hours until Iftar, the meal when the fast is broken. A dry, scratchy throat, raspy for a drink of water. Saliva will have to do unless you are very devout and don't swallow your spit at all. From sunrise to sundown, Muslims fast from food, drink, smoking, and sexual relations during the holy month of Ramadan.

This physical pain and thirst indicate devotion, submission, and a desire for acceptance. This aching hunger for acceptance and intimacy propels us as Christians to share we are loved and accepted not by what we do as humans but because we are made in His image. Hope is within hand's reach.

Join us in interceding for the more than 2 billion followers of Islam, that they would hunger and thirst no more and find their true worth and value in their Creator.

First, let us learn some basics about Ramadan

Muslims around the world observe Ramadan in the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. Followers of Islam spend this month exercising self-restraint by fasting to focus their attention and worship Allah.

When Muslims fast, it shows a longing for acceptance through the demonstration of submission. When Christians fast, it displays a longing for Jesus, who secured our acceptance by submitting Himself to the ultimate sacrifice.

During the month, Muslims direct their minds and energy toward an awareness of Allah and a dedication to piousness. This awareness is called Taqwa and is cultivated by fasting, giving alms (finances) to the poor—or providing only for the meal to break the fast for a larger group—and public readings and recitations of the Quran.

Near the end of Ramadan, Muslims observe the Night of Power, which remembers the day they believe Muhammed received the first part of the Quran. The actual date of the Night of Power isn't known, so Muslims will pray the night of and several nights before.

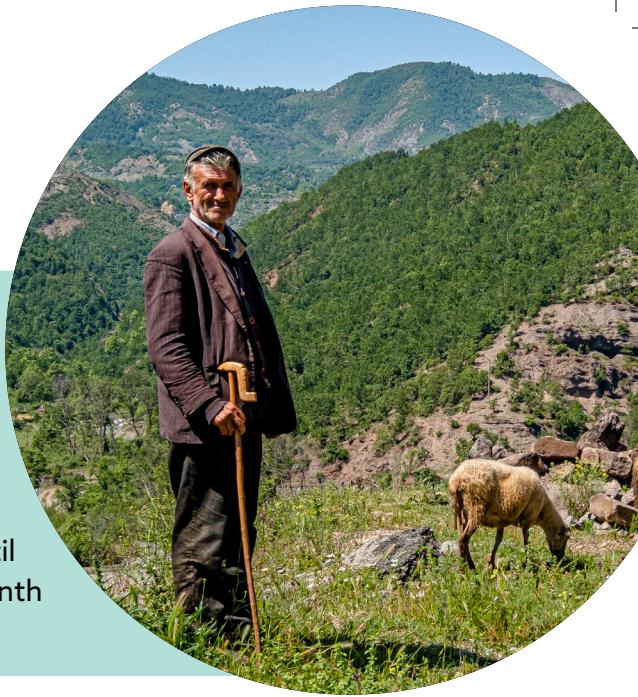
Ramadan is a period of increased spiritual openness, which means it's a crucial time when we can pray for God to reveal Himself. Through this prayer guide, you'll discover ways you can intercede for Muslims and those who serve among them. Journey with us as we pray for the resolution to the world's greatest problem—spiritual lostness.



DAY 1

Let's Learn

Have you ever experienced fasting? Imagine no food or drink during daylight hours—for 30 days. What if your social standing and status with God depended on how well you did with this task? For Muslims around the world, this is their reality for the next month. This year, Ramadan starts on the evening of Tuesday, February 17 and lasts roughly until Thursday, March 19. Muslims are expected to spend the month exercising self-restraint, seeking to earn Allah's favor.



Gorani of Albania

For the Gorani people of Albania, Islam is a central part of their identity. They live in a mountainous region and keep to themselves. Because of their isolation, the Gorani have limited access to the gospel.

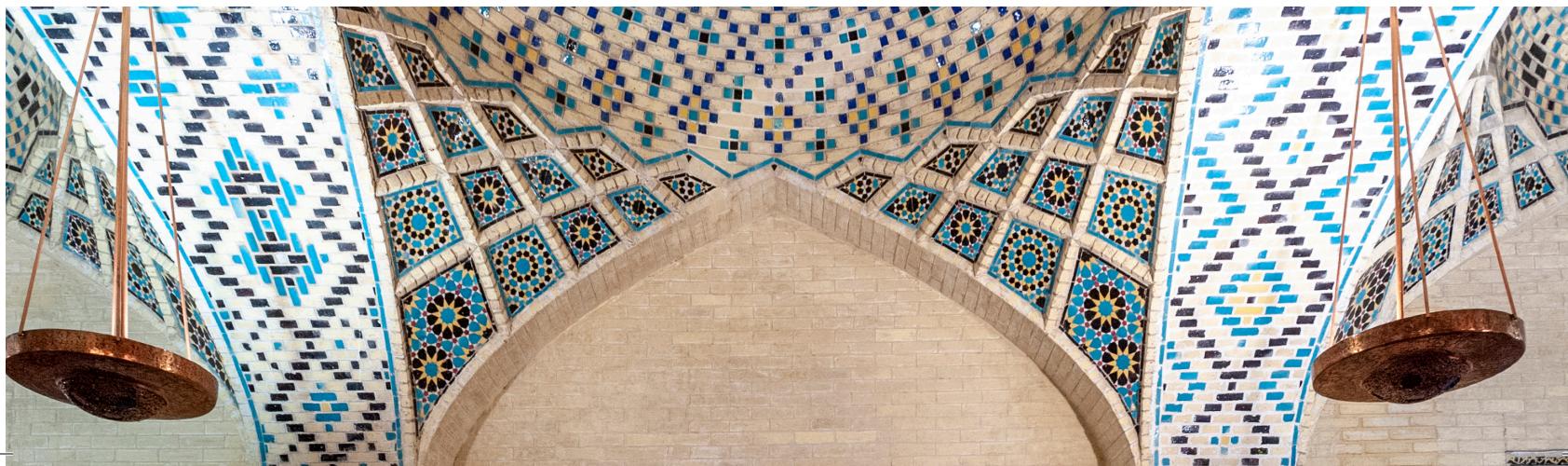
For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth." And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region.

Acts 13:47-48

Let's Pray

- Rejoice and praise the Lord for bringing salvation to you.
- Pray that Muslims around the world will hear the gospel this Ramadan, believe, and experience fellowship with God.
- Despite their isolation, pray that the gospel will reach the Gorani of Albania.

Thank You, Lord, that there is a rich history of Your gospel being proclaimed and spreading throughout entire regions. I pray that You will do this same thing among the Gorani of Albania. Please advance Your gospel through believers sharing Your Word and through the work of Your Church.



DAY 2

Let's Learn

The beginning of Ramadan is traditionally spent with family. This is a challenging time for many believers from Muslim backgrounds because they are often isolated from their family and even persecuted by them. These believers face pressure from their families to participate in Ramadan and shame if they don't.

Deaf of Afghanistan

There are no known Deaf churches in Afghanistan. No part of the Bible or any gospel resource is available in Afghan Sign Language. Most Deaf in Afghanistan live marginalized lives, isolated without much hope to access the good news of abundant, eternal life in Jesus Christ.

Let's Pray

- Pray that believers from Muslim families will draw near to Jesus, be encouraged by His Spirit, and be a compelling witness of the faith they have in Jesus.
- Ask God to make a way for believers in Afghanistan to reach out to Deaf in their communities with the hope of the good news that, by faith in Christ, they can join God's family.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Isaiah 52:7

Heavenly Father, may Your gospel be proclaimed to the Deaf of Afghanistan who have never had the opportunity to see Your good news signed in their language. Open the doors for them to share the good news of salvation with those who need to receive it.



Bonus Activity

Rice is a staple food in Afghanistan. Measure out 4 Tbsp. of rice and pour in a jar. Imagine these 4 tablespoons multiplied by 100,000 to represent the 400,000 Deaf of Afghanistan. What do you think needs to happen for them to access the gospel? Keep your 4 tablespoons of rice in a small jar to help you remember to ask God to make a way for them to see the gospel signed in their language.

DAY 3

Let's Learn

Muslims around the world observe Ramadan in the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. When Muslims fast, they believe their self-restraint shows their submission to Allah and their longing for him to accept them. For Christians, fasting is different. It shows our longing for Jesus, who already secured our acceptance when "he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:8).

Sirtican Bedouin of Libya

The 37,000 Sirtican Bedouin of Libya have difficult lives, living in hot, rugged environments, with civil instability and few resources. To preserve bloodlines and keep resources in the family, they practice cousin marriage. They strongly identify as Sunni Muslims and fast during Ramadan, hoping for Allah to forgive their sins.

Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

Acts 13:38-39

Let's Pray

- Praise the Lord for Christ's finished work on the cross that made a way for you, by faith, to stand before the Father, completely accepted.
- Pray that Muslims who long for acceptance from Allah will hear the good news of Jesus and submit to Him in faith.
- Pray for the Sirtican Bedouin of Libya to hear and trust that freedom from sin and death is only found in Jesus.

Lord, I praise You for freeing me from everything that I couldn't be freed from on my own. You are mighty to save. Please draw many Muslims, who desperately want to be accepted, to Yourself. Please send out believers from other Muslim-majority countries to engage the Sirtican Bedouin of Libya with the gospel. Prepare their hearts to hear the good news so that they might receive it with joy.



DAY 4

Let's Learn

Small children are not usually expected to participate in the Ramadan fast. Usually, people begin fasting when they go through puberty. To prepare children for the discipline of fasting, many parents encourage them to fast a few days each year before the fast becomes obligatory.



Kho of Pakistan

On top of fasting for Ramadan, the 400,000 Kho in northern Pakistan's mountains try to ward off evil spirits through superstitious traditional practices. One Kho man, Naveed, chose to follow Christ after dreaming of a "Man in White" and hearing the gospel. He is without Christian community, but not completely alone — God's presence strengthens and comforts him.

Let's Pray

- As Muslims raise their children in the ways and stories of Islam, pray that God will lead them to want to know the truth about Jesus Christ.
- Pray that Muslims will seek the truth about their Creator and find Him.
- Pray for believers to share the gospel with the Kho of Pakistan.

I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me; I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, "Here I am, here I am," to a nation that was not called by my name.

Isaiah 65:1

Jesus, I pray for Muslim parents to question what they are teaching their children and honestly seek the truth in Your Word. I pray that the Kho people who desperately need You will seek You. Please bring believers from Muslim backgrounds living in Pakistan to share hope with the Kho. Please give them boldness and confidence in You as they seek to engage people with the gospel.





DAY 5

Let's Learn

Ramadan and Zakat (giving alms) are two of the five pillars of Islam (the five core practices and beliefs of Islam). Giving alms is required throughout the year, but Muslims often give more during Ramadan in hopes that Allah will give them more favor. When Muslims give alms to the poor during Ramadan, they might use the money they would have spent during the day to buy food. Another way some Muslims give alms during Ramadan happens during the iftar (the meal that breaks the daytime fast). Many provide food at this meal for more people than just their own family.

Iraqis of Belgium

Observing Ramadan is still important to many of the 22,000 Iraqis who now live as refugees in Belgium. These Sunni Muslims from the home of ancient Nineveh have found themselves in a land of waffles, chocolates, and—more importantly—religious freedom. Just as God brought transformation to Nineveh in Jonah's day, He is at work today, giving Iraqi Arabs in Belgium the opportunity to encounter His Word, His Son, and the hope of salvation.

The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD! May your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

Psalm 22:26-28

Let's Pray

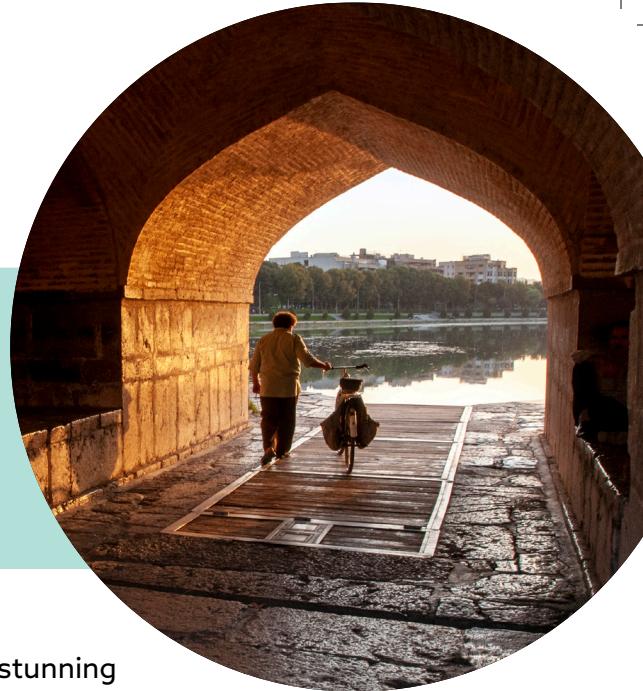
- Thank the Lord for His goodness in your life.
- Pray for Muslims to turn to the Lord and be satisfied in Him.
- Ask God to draw Iraqi Arabs in Belgium to Himself this Ramadan season.

Holy God, You are the only One who satisfies the soul. I pray for Iraqi Arabs in Belgium to feel a deep hunger for You. Draw them to Yourself and bring them to repentance so that they will trust in You alone for their salvation.

DAY 6

Let's Learn

During Ramadan, Muslims seek to experience taqwa, a heightened consciousness of Allah. To get closer to Allah and be more aware of his presence, Muslims listen to the Quran at public readings and during the late evening hours when families are together reciting the Quran.



Khunsari of Iran

The Khunsari follow Islam and live in rural areas near Iran's stunning mountains and springs. Most earn their livelihood through farming and herding. There are no portions of the Bible or gospel resources in their primary language or any known believers among them to share the truth of the gospel.

Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: "To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance."

Isaiah 45:22-23

Let's Pray

- Pray for Muslims to be disillusioned with Islam and seek the truth.
- Pray for the Khunsari of Iran to have access to God's Word in their language.
- Praise the Lord for inviting you and "all the ends of the earth" to be saved by turning to Him.

Jesus, I proclaim from the bottom of my heart "You are God, and there is no other." Please draw many Muslims to confess this truth and bow their knees to You. As they work to earn favor with Allah, may they realize the emptiness of Islam and turn to seek You and Your saving grace instead. I pray, Lord, that You will raise up translators and bless them with wisdom and endurance to make Scripture available for the Khunsari people in their heart language. Please open doors across the world for Your Word to be available and accessible to all.



DAY 7

Let's Learn

Jesus promised that He would build His Church — even in the Muslim world (Revelation 7:9-10). And He's doing so in some difficult Muslim-majority areas. House churches there are small, dedicated, and bold in their witness. They are thriving, despite threats from neighbors, Muslim religious leaders, and the government.



Sula of Indonesia

One of the greatest barriers for the Sula to believe the gospel and follow Jesus is pressure from their community and family to not leave their religion and traditional practices. On the surface, most Sula follow Sunni Islam and publicly identify as Muslim. But in private, they practice traditional customs to seek healing, power, and blessings from various spirits. It's common for them to visit a shaman for help or to curse an enemy.

*The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine
upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance
upon you and give you peace.*

Numbers 6:24-26

Let's Pray

- Praise the Lord for building His Church in Muslim-majority areas.
- Please pray that Christians will have a burden to share with the Sula people.
- Pray that the Sula will have ears to hear the gospel and respond to it in faith.

Father, we praise You for Your work among Muslims in, raising up Your faithful witnesses. We pray for the local Christians in Indonesia, that You would stir their hearts with a deep burden to share the gospel with the Sula people. Grant them courage, wisdom, and compassion to reach out to their neighbors with Your good news. Prepare the hearts of the Sula, creating a spiritual hunger and receptivity to Your truth. Open their ears to hear the gospel, soften their hearts, and draw them to faith in Jesus Christ. May Your Spirit move powerfully among them, bringing many to salvation.



DAY 8

Let's Learn

Throughout the year, Deaf people gather at StoryOne camps around the world, including Muslim countries. These week-long camps provide training for the Deaf as they study and translate Bible stories into their own sign languages. After translating a story, they record, edit, and upload their work to the Deaf Pathway Bible app. God is working through these camps to reach more Deaf people with the gospel and plant churches. During their Ramadan fast, Muslims are supposed to spend extra time concentrating on prayer and the Quran. But you can pray that they will find these Bible stories in their language and concentrate on God's Word.

Deaf of Iraq

The Deaf of Iraq, both Arab and Kurdish, lack access to the Bible in their heart sign language. Often marginalized and sometimes hidden by their families in shame, they face many challenges. Yet God has not abandoned them. He wants them to know His love through Christ.

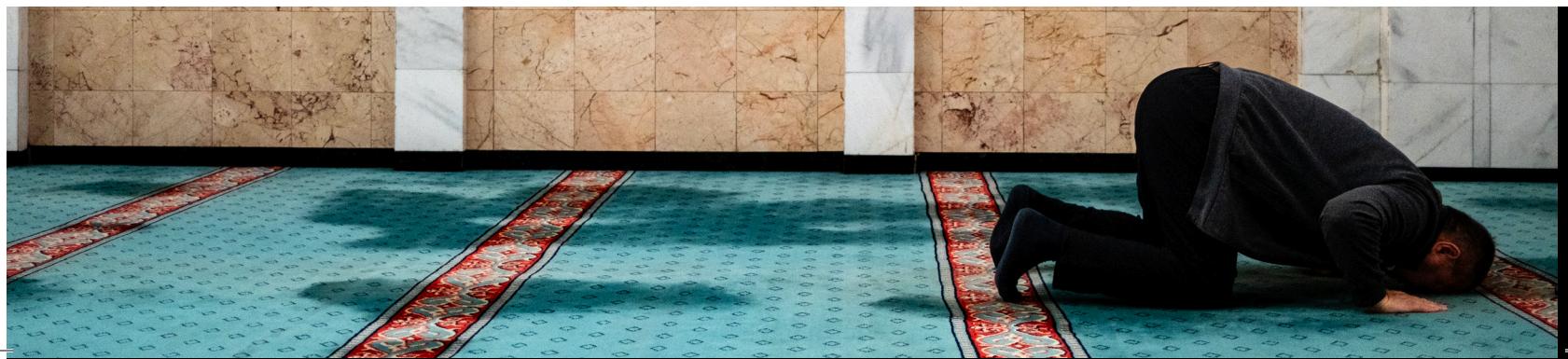
*Continue steadfastly in prayer,
being watchful in it with
thanksgiving.*

Colossians 4:2

Let's Pray

- Praise the Lord for what He is doing among Deaf people groups.
- Pray that Bible stories translated into sign languages will reach Deaf people who understand those languages so they can learn and respond to the gospel.
- Pray for God to bring many Deaf in Iraq to faith in Christ and that, when they believe, Deaf believers in Iraq will faithfully abide in Jesus every day.

God, You are wonderful and You do wonderful things. I pray You will bring Your Word and salvation to the Deaf of Iraq. I pray that, when they believe, they will tell the stories of Your greatness to their children and that generations after them will follow the One True God. Please bring countless men, women, boys, and girls into Your kingdom. I pray that Deaf Muslims who are spending more time in prayer and reading the Quran will have access to Bible stories in their language and concentrate on Your Word.



DAY 9

Let's Learn

Waiting for the sun to go down so they can break the fast, Muslims around the world gather around the table, anticipating a festive evening spent feasting with family and friends. As soon as they hear the loud call to prayer coming from the local mosque that officially ends the day's fast, many will quickly eat a date or drink a glass of milk or juice, then rush off to pray before gathering to enjoy the meal they have spent the day preparing. Even if they hear the sound in the middle of traffic, some Muslims will immediately pull off the road and enjoy a date.

Sidi Bedouins of Algeria

In the stark, gritty beauty of Northwest Algeria's mountains and valleys, the Sidi Bedouins make their home. Traditionally, they raised livestock and traversed the Sahara to find food and water for their animals. Their continued tribal and nomadic lifestyle, as well as their unique language and commitment to Islam, make it difficult to find them and communicate the gospel in their language.

And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Matthew 24:14

Let's Pray

- Pray for Muslims to hunger and thirst to know the Lord Jesus.
- Ask God to make a way for the Sidi Bedouins of Algeria to hear the gospel.
- Praise God for His hopeful promise that the gospel "will be proclaimed throughout the whole world."

Lord, the task of getting the gospel to the ends of the earth seems daunting and, often impossible. I praise You because You have given this promise that Your gospel will be proclaimed throughout the whole world. I pray that, during this season when many Sidi Bedouins of Algeria are seeking to be closer to Allah, You will cause Your gospel to come into their lives and give them real hope.



Bonus Activity

Hospitality is a hallmark of Bedouin culture. Invite friends over to hear about the Sidi Bedouins and sip Algerian Mint Tea, which, during Ramadan, they may only drink after sunset. Steep 1 Tbsp. green tea with 4 large spearmint sprigs for 15 mins. Add sugar and serve hot.



DAY 10

Let's Learn

The heart-wrenching reality is that every day, Muslims are dying without Jesus. Some have been presented with the truth of the gospel but have rejected it, while others have never had the chance to respond to the good news.

Deaf of Gambia

Most Deaf of Gambia are Muslim and have no access to the Bible in their sign language. There are a few Deaf Gambian believers, but they are scattered and live separated from the majority community. In 2023, several Deaf Gambians attended a Bible camp, where they saw Bible stories signed in their language for the first time.

Let's Pray

- Praise God that several Deaf Gambians saw Bible stories in their sign language for the first time. Pray that they won't forget what they saw.
- Pray that Muslims who are working so hard to please Allah will go to Jesus and find rest for their weary souls.
- Pray for an increase in Christian evangelical presence in Muslim communities around the world.

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 11:28-29

Lord, during Ramadan, the heavy burdens of fasting, giving alms, and showing hospitality can seem overwhelming to Muslims. I pray that You will show the Deaf of Gambia that Your yoke is easy, and Your burden is light. Would You continue to let Your gospel advance, giving the Deaf of Gambia an opportunity to lay down their good deeds at Your feet and trust only in the finished work of Jesus on the cross?

DAY 11

Let's Learn

Reading, chanting, or listening to the Quran is especially important to Muslims during Ramadan. Many Muslims strive to read the Quran in Quranic Arabic, a form of Arabic that is different from what people speak at home or on the street. A group of North African immigrant women take a Quranic Arabic class during the school year. It helps to fill their days while their children are in school, gives an instant sense of community with other Muslim women in their new Muslim-minority country, and builds a sense of tradition and pride in their religious culture. It also offers the possibility of earning favor with Allah. They believe chanting the Quran — without mistakes — will help them gain favor with Allah. One of the women said she doesn't really understand the words, but she believes that chanting them is valuable because it increases her chances of getting into paradise.

Anfillo of Ethiopia

The Anfillo of Ethiopia follow Sunni Islam, constantly working, praying, and fasting to please Allah. They are very hard to reach because of political unrest in their region and their location in Ethiopia's deep countryside. Unless something changes, they will remain lost, unengaged and unreached with the gospel.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16

Let's Pray

- Pray that believers will let the light of Jesus shine bright and beautiful before their Muslim neighbors.
- Pray for more Muslims to read God's Word and let His Holy Spirit convict them and draw them to faith in Jesus.
- Praise God for the immeasurable gift of His Word.

Father, while Muslims are going to great lengths this month to earn favor with Allah, Jesus-followers look different. Instead of trusting in their own good deeds to help them earn favor with You, they have trusted in the work of Christ alone for their salvation. As these believers live in such a countercultural way, I pray that their light will shine before others so that the watching world may see their good works and give glory to You in heaven. In Ethiopia and around the world, draw Muslims to see the peace You alone can offer them. Father, during Ramadan, may Muslims in Ethiopia desire to read the Bible to see how it is different than their scriptures and see that You are the only way to salvation.

DAY 12

Let's Learn

In the Muslim world, the entire dynamic changes for Ramadan. Since people don't eat or drink from sunrise to sunset, they often eat throughout the night. Women, especially, often work extra hours preparing traditional food for their families.

Yazeed of Sudan

Typically, Yazeed women and children in Sudan stay in their family camps, tending their gardens and the smaller animals while the men travel the desert with their camels in desperate search of food for their herd. Although they call themselves Muslim, most Yazeed don't follow Islam's core requirements. Jesus died for these isolated, desert-dwelling people, yet most Yazeed people have no knowledge of God's steadfast love for them.

Let's Pray

- Pray that Muslim women will listen and obey Jesus calling them to follow Him.
- Despite busy Ramadan schedules, pray that Muslims will take time to focus on spiritual matters, seek truth, and find Jesus.
- Pray for the Yazeed of Sudan to learn about God's steadfast love for them.

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

Matthew 9:37-39

Lord of the harvest, You tell us that the harvest is plentiful, but there are so few laborers. Thank You for the hope that You are preparing a harvest of people who are ready to receive You as Lord and Savior. Would You mobilize Your people to go and tell the good news to those who are waiting to hear? May there be a great harvest among the Yazeed people! May You redeem many Muslim women to worship You in spirit and in truth!



A photograph showing a man in a mosque, kneeling on a red patterned carpet and bowing his head in prayer. Other people are visible in the background.

DAY 13

Let's Learn

Even though opportunities for gospel conversation abound during Ramadan and more people are focused on spiritual ideas, sometimes it can be challenging for believers to take those opportunities and share their faith. Many believers in Muslim countries face persecution from their friends, family, and government. Reaching Muslims with the gospel requires believers to be brave and share boldly, no matter the cost.

Egyptian Arabs of Qatar

Many Egyptians work in Qatar and send money back to their family in Egypt. Most follow Islam, trying to find favor with Allah. It is considered blasphemy to question their faith. To leave Islam and follow Jesus can mean losing their job, their place in their family, or even their life.

The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.

Matthew 4:16

Let's Pray

- Pray for believers to be brave and take the opportunities that God has provided for them to share the gospel during Ramadan.
- Pray for Egyptian Arabs in Qatar to also be brave when they hear the gospel by choosing to leave Islam and follow Jesus.
- Ask God to reveal His truth to people around the world who are dwelling in darkness.

Merciful Savior, I praise You because You have made a way for those living in darkness to be brought into right relationship with You. Would You send Your light to shine brightly among the Egyptian Arabs of Qatar?

DAY 14

Let's Learn

Many locations in Central Asia are difficult to access and are spiritually dark. Cultural pressures often make those curious about Jesus afraid to read the Bible or enter a church. Even so, the gospel is advancing. God is building His Church in Central Asia, and the gates of hell will not overcome it (Matthew 16:18). Although the final victory is sure, this period before Christ's return is fraught with spiritual attacks and difficulties. The Church must be grounded in the true understanding and application of God's Word. Some pastors rule with a heavy hand. Others do not faithfully teach the Word. A common need across Central Asia is for more mature pastors who are living holy lives and are committed to faithful Bible teaching.

Northern Pashtun of Canada

Over 21 million Northern Pashtun live mainly in Afghanistan and Pakistan (Central Asia). Recently, many have immigrated to Canada. They cling to their culture and Sunni Islam while navigating the challenges of adapting to Western culture. Their greatest need is a transformative relationship with Jesus Christ.

Let's Pray

- Praise the Lord for building His Church in Central Asia.
- Pray for Central Asian pastors to faithfully abide in Jesus and lead His people well.
- Pray for Iranian and Canadian believers to share the gospel with Pashtuns around them.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:23-24

Lord, I pray for the Pashtun people around the world. May they come to understand the grace and mercy that comes from Jesus Christ to all who call on Him in faith. I pray that Your gospel will advance among them and that, when they hear the good news of the Savior they so desperately need, they will receive it with joy.



DAY 15

Let's Learn

Because Muslims are more sensitive to spiritual things during Ramadan, they are often more open to spiritual conversations with Christian friends, especially while sharing the evening meal, called iftar. They might even invite Christian friends to feast and celebrate the end of Ramadan, called Eid al-Fitr. In this setting, Muslim hosts often welcome and encourage spiritual discussions. Ramadan is also a great opportunity for Christians to invite their Muslim friends to an evening meal, to give return hospitality, and to have conversations about the gospel.

Jula of Mali

"How can the Word of God help us?" That was what the Jula chiefs asked when missionaries and local believers sought permission to visit their villages and share stories from God's Word. From mid-2023, new Jula believers from Burkina Faso traveled to share the gospel with Jula in Mali, who are 99% Muslim. They saw God change people's hearts by the power of His Word. Two brothers who had not spoken to each other in years listened as the believers told the Bible stories about Joseph and his brothers. In front of the whole group, the two men reconciled in tears. Over the next year, eight Jula people of Mali chose to follow Christ! God's Word helped several Jula to not only be reconciled with each other, but also with God Himself through faith in Jesus Christ.

Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, "Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

John 7:38

Let's Pray

- Ask God to orchestrate meals this Ramadan season for Christians to have conversations with Muslims about the gospel.
- Praise the Lord for moving among the Jula of Mali.
- Pray that God's people will continue sharing the gospel in Mali and beyond.

Thank You, Lord, for the streams of living water that flow from the hearts of Christians around the world. Please continue to fill them with Your Spirit as they spend daily time with You and in Your Word. Bless them as they share hope with others. Help these streams of living water flow from them so that the people they are ministering to might come to know You and never thirst again.



DAY 16

Let's Learn

Every year, Ramadan is a non-negotiable. Any adult Muslim who is able to fast and chooses not to is seen as someone who is not serious about their faith. Since being faithful to fast during Ramadan is one of the five core doctrines that define Islamic life (the five pillars of Islam), devout Muslims take extreme precaution. Some are even afraid to swallow their saliva, since fasting for Ramadan includes liquids.

Kraal of India

The Kraal experience a lot of discrimination where they live in northern India. They stick together, and they stick to Islam. They have the Bible in their language, but none of them that we know of follow Jesus Christ. Most Kraal practice a mystical version of Islam. Instead of trusting in God and His Word, they wear amulets with verses from the Quran to protect them from illnesses or evil spirits.

Let's Pray

- Pray for the gospel to reach Muslims like the Kraal people.
- Pray that Muslims will boldly leave Islam and run to Jesus.
- Praise the Lord for calling you to Himself.

Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Isaiah 55:5

Merciful Father, what a hope this verse is for people who are living far from You right now. I praise You, holy God, that Your desire is to bring people into Your family who do not yet know You. Thank You for the ways the gospel is advancing across the Muslim world. I pray that You will give many Kraal men, women, boys, and girls, the gift of faith in You.



Bonus Activity

The Kraal of India are known for making earthenware pottery. Make a clay bowl by using store-bought air-dry clay or make your own by cooking 1 cup baking soda, 1/2 cup cornstarch, and 3/4 cup water until thick. Roll to 1/4 - 1/2 inch thickness. Cut out a circle using an upside-down glass bowl. Shape by placing in glass bowl. Dry overnight. Sand edges. Enjoy as a decoration only, not safe for food. Let this bowl remind you to pray for the Kraal of India.



DAY 17

Let's Learn

Participating in Ramadan can make people very tired. They have stayed up much of the night eating and drinking to nourish their bodies, and they are hungry and thirsty during the day. In many countries, work schedules shift during Ramadan, allowing people to sleep later during the day and, in some cases, to sleep all day long and then feast at night. Ramadan can be especially difficult for Muslims living outside of Muslim countries because, though their eating schedules change drastically, their work and school schedules remain the same.

Chechens of the European Diaspora

Many Chechens in Europe fled from conflicts back home. Even though they're far from their homeland in the North Caucasus region of Russia, many displaced Chechens across Europe miss it and hope to go back someday. Most Chechens follow Islam, seeking righteousness through religious practices rather than through faith in Jesus.

And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us.

Acts 17:26-27

Let's Pray

- Pray for God to have mercy on Muslims living outside the Muslim world who are tired, hungry, and struggling.
- Pray for Chechens in Europe to hear and respond in faith to the gospel.
- Pray for Muslims who are living outside Muslim countries to seek God and find Him.

Oh Lord, how great is Your mercy. I praise You that, though many do not seek You, You can make a way for Chechens of the European Diaspora to know the truth of Your gospel. I pray for You to pour out Your mercy on them, giving them opportunities to hear and respond to the good news of Jesus.

DAY 18

Let's Learn

During Ramadan, Muslims are supposed to concentrate their energy and minds on awareness of Allah and on a life of pious worship. They believe they can cultivate taqwa, awareness of Allah, by doing things like fasting, giving alms (finances), and participating in public readings of the Quran.



Wolof of Mauritania

The Wolof are Muslim with deep animistic roots, believing a verse from the Quran can serve as a curse or blessing. A marabout, or Muslim spiritual leader, holds significant authority in their community. The Wolof in Mauritania believe the word of their marabout, not the Word of God, is final.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear."

Matthew 13:1-9

Let's Pray

- Pray for Muslims to seek the truth about God with their whole hearts and find Him.
- Ask God to provide more opportunities for Muslims to learn the truth about Him.
- Pray for the Wolof of Mauritania to hear and trust in the Word of God.

Holy Father, I pray for the Wolof of Mauritania to hear Your good news. As Your gospel seeds are being sown across the Muslim world, prepare the hearts of the Wolof so that these seeds might fall on good soil and grow into beautiful fruit.



DAY 19

Let's Learn

Despite the resistance to Christianity in many parts of Northern Africa and the Middle East, Christians have lived there for centuries. Today, Christians continue to live among their Muslim friends and neighbors as loving witnesses. It is not easy. Believers often deal with persecution, resistance at the mention of Jesus, and cultural differences between faiths. Despite the hardships that may come, they still seek to obediently and boldly make known the name of Jesus.

Deaf of Jordan

Most Deaf people in Jordan follow Islam, hoping to please Allah through works without any assurance that they've done enough to earn salvation. The Deaf community there greatly needs more Christians to engage them with the gospel. Believing Deaf Jordanians tend to stay in their lane and not share their faith with their Muslim family and friends. Some believers have been working for several years to translate Scripture into Jordanian Sign Language.

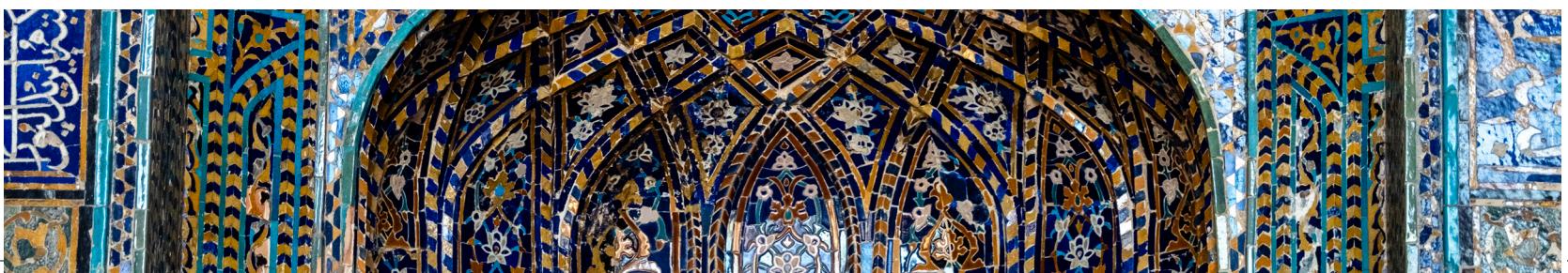
And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

Let's Pray

- Pray for believers in Jordan and across Northern Africa and the Middle East to have courage and boldly share the hope they have in Christ.
- Ask God to provide more Christians to engage the Deaf in Jordan with the gospel.
- Pray that the translation of Scripture into Jordanian Sign Language will be completed this year.

Lord, I confess to You that I can neglect to share the gospel with others because I worry about what they might think of me. Please forgive me for often neglecting to tell others about what You have done. I pray for my Muslim background brothers and sisters living in Northern Africa and the Middle East. Would You remind them that the command You have given them to share hope with others was given along with the promise of Your authority and Your presence as they go? Please give them boldness and confidence in You as they seek to engage people with the gospel. Would You raise up believers who can go and share with the Deaf of Jordan?



DAY 20

Let's Learn

Islam is considered by many to be the fastest-growing religion in the world. Some of the ways Islam is growing include high birth rates, migration, and radicalization. Muslims are in desperate need of Jesus, but many don't know that God has already provided a way for them to be made right with Him. To Muslims who are striving to fast correctly during Ramadan, hoping to please Allah yet never knowing if they've done enough, the gospel really is good news.



Tutung of Brunei

The Tutung are a people group living in a slower-paced region of Brunei. For generations, they were fishermen and seafarers, but many have now traded their nets for better paying jobs in larger cities. While their ancestors followed animistic beliefs, most Tutung today practice Islam. In Brunei, being Muslim is considered a lifelong identity — from birth to death. Some Tutung still celebrate their indigenous traditions alongside Islamic practices, creating a blend of the two belief systems. The more beliefs and traditions they cling to, the harder it seems for them to let go and embrace the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Let's Pray

- Pray for the Tutung people to leave behind their worldly traditions and turn to Jesus.
- Pray for the gospel to be proclaimed in the home of every Muslim family, spreading the good news about hope and freedom in Christ.
- Pray that Muslims who hear the good news about Jesus will immediately leave their sin behind and follow Him.

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

Mark 1:17-18

Thank You, Father, for those who are already following You. I pray that You will raise up believers to take the gospel to those who have never heard the good news. Please allow whole families to hear and believe the amazing things You have done to bring them into a right relationship with You.





DAY 21

Let's Learn

Christian and Muslim fasting both show that spiritual hunger goes beyond physical needs. Both religions recognize that there's something more important than simply satisfying our immediate desires. However, Christians and Muslims approach fasting from fundamentally different perspectives. For Christians, fasting isn't about earning spiritual favor, but about reflecting on Christ's completed work—something our own actions can't improve upon.

Wasi of Tanzania

The Wasi practice folk Islam, blending Islamic practices and beliefs with those of traditional African religions. The Wasi don't easily allow outsiders to live among them. Bible portions, gospel recordings, and the "JESUS" film are available in their language. But they have no missionary presence among them.

And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:16-18

Let's Pray

- Pray for Muslims to see the difference between their fasting and Christian fasting.
- Pray for missionaries to go to the Wasi of Tanzania and share the hope of Christ with them.
- Thank the Lord for His completed work for your salvation.

Lord, would You reveal Yourself to these who try to please Allah with fasting this Ramadan? Their efforts will never be enough to erase their sins. Thank You that, while our efforts may fail, You have provided a better way—through the blood of Jesus—for us to be made right with You. Please help people following Islam to see that they are walking in darkness, and give them the desire to know the Son of God.

DAY 22

Let's Learn

Ramadan is a time when many Muslims are very aware of dreams and visions. They believe dreams are a way that Allah reveals himself to people. During this time of heightened spiritual focus, Muslims pray to Allah for a special message or revelation.

In past Ramadan seasons, God has answered His people's prayers on behalf of Muslims around the world. Many Muslims have had dreams and visions of Jesus appearing to them and drawing them to Himself. God sometimes even uses experiences like this, along with gospel proclamation, to bring people to faith in Christ!

Turkmen of Uzbekistan

The Turkmen of Uzbekistan live mostly in the western part of the country, particularly in the Karakalpakstan and Khorezm regions, near the border with Turkmenistan. They are descendants of ancient nomadic tribes and follow Sunni Islam. Their herdsmen identity reflects itself in their livestock skills and traditional clothing, designed to be practical and durable. They speak Turkmen, Uzbek, and some Russian. Although many Turkmen in Uzbekistan have become integrated into Uzbek society, they continue to maintain their own customs, including traditional music, dance, and cuisine.

*Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you! Let the
nations be glad and sing for joy, for
you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.*

Psalm 67:3-4

Let's Pray

- Pray for more Muslims to have dreams and visions of Jesus.
- When Muslims have dreams of Jesus, pray that they will have an opportunity to hear the full gospel proclaimed and respond in faith to the truth—the good news—about Him.
- Pray God will provide a way for Uzbek believers to be accepted into these Turkmen communities where they can share the gospel more easily than in Turkmenistan.

Lord, You are the holy, perfect, and merciful God. You desire that all the peoples praise Your name. I pray for those who have still not had a chance to hear about the good news of what Jesus did for them. Would You pour out Your mercy on them and give more Turkmen people eyes to see You and hearts to receive You? Give Turkmen people and Muslims around the world dreams, visions, and opportunities to hear the good news of Jesus this Ramadan.



DAY 23

Let's Learn

During Ramadan, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. Instead of eating, drinking, or giving into other cravings, they are taught to think about Allah and meditate on their responsibility to please him. Fasting for Ramadan is all about working to please Allah and hoping to earn his favor.

Bisa of Côte d'Ivoire

The Bisa are hard-working people. Although most of them would say they are Muslim, many still practice animism. One barrier they face in believing the gospel is overcoming animistic traditions that are deeply rooted in their culture. These traditions teach the Bisa to perform unbiblical rituals that they fearfully hope will heal and save them.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Let's Pray

- As Muslims work hard to meditate on pleasing Allah, pray that they will grow an insatiable hunger to know the truth about Jesus.
- Pray for Muslims to hear and believe the good news of God's grace in Jesus Christ.
- Pray that the Bisa of Côte d'Ivoire will hear the gospel and find salvation in Jesus.

Oh, God, You are able to make a way when we can't see a way forward. Would You, in Your power and providence, make a way for the Bisa of Côte d'Ivoire to hear the gospel? They work so hard, especially during Ramadan, to earn the favor of a false god. Would You raise up believers who are willing and able to go and share the truth of Jesus Christ with them? Grant these believers the joy of seeing fruit.



Bonus Activity

The Bisa of Côte d'Ivoire are known for their peanut products. Make your favorite peanut or peanut butter recipe. As you make it and share it, pray for the Bisa.

DAY 24

Let's Learn

Though exceptions for medical needs are allowed in Islam, many Muslims who struggle with health issues still participate in fasting. They believe that their extra effort will earn them even more favor with Allah. Even many nursing and pregnant mothers, who might not be required to fast during Ramadan, push themselves to do so anyway.



Western Baloch of Turkmenistan

The Baloch minority in Turkmenistan foster a profound sense of solidarity. Family is central to their culture, and they are forbidden to marry outside the Baloch community. It's hard for Baloch to seek truth outside of Islam because their community would see that as being disloyal.

There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.

Mark 7:15

Let's Pray

- Ask God to sustain the health of Muslims who struggle with health issues yet still fast for Ramadan.
- Pray for the Father to open Muslims' eyes to see sin as He does, to run to Jesus to receive His love and forgiveness, and to be cleansed from the sins that defile them.
- Pray for the Baloch of Turkmenistan to bravely seek truth in God's Word.

Holy God, I pray many Baloch in Turkmenistan will have the opportunity to meet a true follower of Christ. Please open their eyes to the truth about what can defile people and what can make them clean.



DAY 25

Let's Learn

While Ramadan is a time to fast during the day, the nights are filled with celebration. Even in parts of the Muslim world where there is a lot of poverty, Muslims still feel great pressure to entertain their family and guests throughout the month.

Tajiks of European Diaspora

Tajikistan is one of the poorest countries in Central Asia. Almost one-third of the working population migrates to Europe seasonally and sends money back home to Tajikistan. Due to limited opportunities in Tajikistan, many young people strive to move to Europe for better work or education. These needs often feel more urgent to them than their spiritual need for new life in Jesus.

Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Luke 12:6-7

Let's Pray

- Pray that Muslims who feel overwhelmed will run to Jesus.
- Pray for Tajik people to recognize their need for Jesus and turn to Him in faith.
- Praise the Lord for valuing you with such love and attention.

Thank You, Lord, that You know every hair on the heads of all of the people You have created in Your image. I pray specifically for these who don't know that the God of the universe cares about the details of their lives. When Muslims feel unseen, would You make a way for them to know that they are seen and that You have made a way for them to be adopted into Your family?



DAY 26

Let's Learn

During the second half of the month of Ramadan, devout Muslims commemorate the night they believe Muhammad, the prominent Islamic prophet, received the initial portion of the Quran. This year the event known as Laylat al-Qadr, or the Night of Power, will be observed around March 16. No one is certain about which night during Ramadan exactly parallels the historical night they believe Muhammad received his revelation. So, Muslims spend several nights reading the Quran and praying to ensure they observe the special night when they believe Allah is more likely to answer their prayers.



Shukria of Sudan

Amid tension and warfare in their area, the Shukria work to support their families through agriculture. Most claim to follow Islam, but they also practice folk rituals. Their beliefs offer no assurance of salvation. No matter how much they try, the Shukria never know if they've done enough to please Allah.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Matthew 5:6

Let's Pray

- Pray for Muslims to seek Jesus and call on Him for salvation.
- Pray for the Shukria to hear the gospel, believe, and rest securely in Christ's finished work for their salvation.
- Praise the Lord for how He has satisfied you in your life and for how He has answered your prayers.

Thank You, Father, for the heightened senses of hunger and thirst Muslims experience during Ramadan. I pray for the Shukria of Sudan who are living in darkness, separated from You. Would You put in their hearts a hunger and thirst for righteousness so that they may be satisfied in You alone?





DAY 27

Let's Learn

While fasting, Muslims seek Allah, especially on the Night of Power, which they are taught is a special time when they can ask him for anything in prayer. Some believe that on this night, Satan is bound and they will receive extra rewards for their good deeds. Many Muslims will say extra prayers or even stay up all night praying, believing that they are more likely to receive an answer from Allah.

Jibbali of Oman

The Jibbali of Oman are proud Muslims who speak what is known as Jibbali or "mountain language." There are no Scriptures in this language. Unless something changes, the Jibbali of Oman will continue facing each day without the comfort and guidance of God's Word.

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.

John 10:27-30

Let's Pray

- Pray that God will call Muslims to faith in Jesus tonight.
- Pray for Muslims to follow Jesus, no matter the cost.
- Pray that God's Word will be translated in Jibbali, recorded and heard by every Jibbali in Oman.

What a beautiful promise You have given, oh Lord, that Your sheep will hear Your voice and follow You. And how amazing it is to remember that they will never be snatched from Your hand. I pray that You will raise up believers who are willing to go to the Jibbali of Oman and share this good news. During this night of spiritual openness among so many Muslims, I ask You to break through to Muslims and bring them to faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

DAY 28

Let's Learn

As the sun sets across the Muslim world, Muslims wait for the call to prayer. When they hear it from a nearby mosque, their cell phones, or television, they know they are finally free to eat! In many parts of the world, restaurants and cafes stay open all night while people enjoy the food and drinks they cannot have during the day.

Purig-Pa of India

The Purig-Pa are Sunni Muslim who live simple lives in the Ladakh region of India. Although some of their villages lie along tourist routes, those deeper in the region off the main road are suspicious of outsiders. There has been sporadic gospel sharing among them, but there are no known Purig-Pa followers of Jesus, and seekers are discouraged from learning more. Once, when a few boys showed interest in following Jesus, the community did not allow them to hear more or share what they heard about the gospel.

*But to all who did receive him,
who believed in his name, he gave
the right to become children of
God, who were born, not of blood
nor of the will of the flesh nor of
the will of man, but of God.*

John 1:12-13

Let's Pray

- As Muslims eagerly wait for the call to prayer that allows them to eat each evening, pray for Muslims to hunger and thirst for the Savior who redeems and satisfies those who call on Him in faith.
- Pray for those who have heard the gospel to turn in faith, standing firm against persecution.
- Pray for those who are preventing the spread of the gospel among the Purig-Pa to receive and share the truth of God's grace and mercy.

Lord, I praise You because You are the light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome Your glorious light. I pray for Muslims waiting for sunset, so they can go out to restaurants to nourish their weary bodies and enjoy food and fellowship. Please make a way for Purig-Pa people to hear the truth about You and receive it in faith. I pray that they will believe in Your name, Jesus, and become children of God.

DAY 29

Let's Learn

Across the Muslim world, believers who have left Islam to follow Jesus face heavy external pressures of persecution—rejection from family, social isolation, difficulty finding a job or a spouse, physical abuse, imprisonment, or even death. Many of these believers are afraid to tell others about their faith or meet with other Jesus followers. This fear of getting in trouble or getting hurt can lead believers to not trust each other.

Beni Shangul of Ethiopia

In 2022, Loving the Lost featured the Beni Shangul (BEH-nee SHAN-gool), a Muslim people group in western Ethiopia with no known gospel presence. Since then, people have been praying, and God has been working. God burdened two groups of Ethiopian believers to reach the Beni Shangul. A believer from another country began to research the Beni Shangul and visit their small, isolated farming villages. He discovered more than a dozen Beni Shangul believers! In 2023, despite major challenges with communication and transportation, these Beni Shangul believers gathered in a large city to learn how to share their faith. Now, Beni Shangul believers are growing in discipleship and starting small groups where there are no churches.

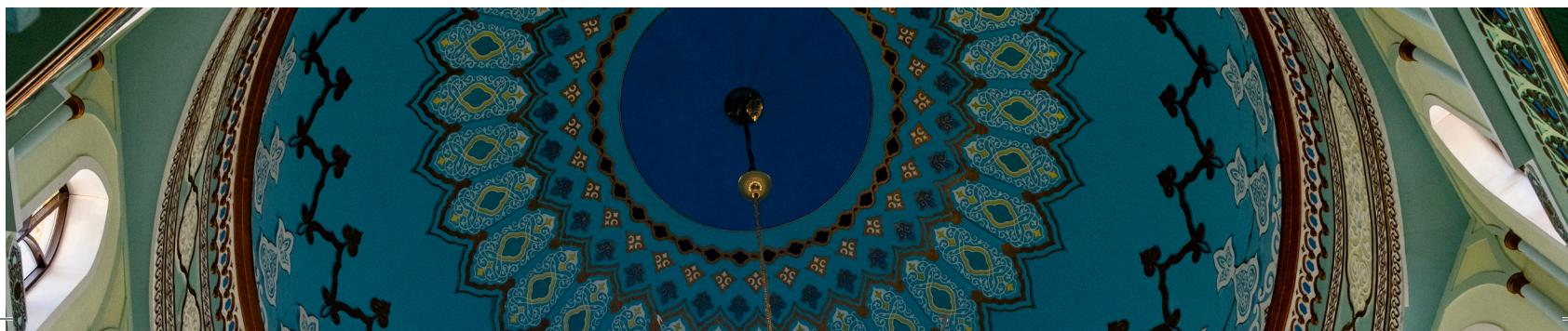
For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

2 Timothy 1:7

Let's Pray

- Ask God to protect and unify His Church in the Muslim world as they face persecution.
- Thank the Lord for answering prayers for the Beni Shangul and providing believers to boldly find and disciple Beni Shangul believers.
- Pray for Beni Shangul believers to abide in Christ and grow in discipleship and as a church.

God, I pray that believers will remain faithful as they endure persecution. Help them to grow in their faith and support one another. We know that Ramadan can be a difficult time for believers living in the Muslim world, as it can leave them feeling isolated from their communities. Please be with believers in Ethiopia. As Numbers 6:24-26 says, please bless them and keep them. Make Your face to shine on them and be gracious to them. Please lift up Your countenance on them and give them peace. Remind them that You are with them and that, while their culture might reject them because of their faith in You, You will never abandon them.



DAY 30

Let's Learn

During Ramadan, people are given exceptions from fasting for things such as travel, medical necessity, and when people are believed to be unclean, like during a woman's monthly period. However, these days should be "made up" before the next year's Ramadan fast. Still, Muslims worry about making up the missed days, wondering if Allah will accept them.

Alas of Indonesia

As Muslims, the Alas people of Indonesia are expected to join in Ramadan. Though they are Muslim, they usually turn to witch doctors and pray to ancestors for help. They haven't heard the good news about Jesus Christ.

*For all the gods of the peoples
are worthless idols, but the LORD
made the heavens.*

1 Chronicles 16:26

Let's Pray

- Pray for Muslims to seek the Lord who made the heavens.
- Pray that the Alas of Indonesia will hear the gospel and follow Christ.
- Praise God for your status with Him because of Christ.

Holy God, I pray for the Alas of Indonesia and for Muslims around the world who are working so hard to please worthless idols of religious rituals and good deeds. Lord who made the heavens, would You help them recognize the emptiness inside as they try in vain to find peace through their own efforts? I pray they will hunger for truth and that they will have the opportunity to hear and respond to Your good news that can bring them true peace. I pray that their communities will be transformed from the inside out and that many will walk away from idolatry and follow the One True God.



Bonus Activity

Timphan Cake: Mix 5 eggs and 1 1/4 cups sugar. Add 1/4 cup flour, 1 cup coconut milk, 1 tsp. vanilla, and 1/2 tsp. salt. Cook, whisking constantly, until thickened. Set aside. Mix 5 mashed bananas with 3 1/3 cups rice flour and 1/2 cup coconut milk. Knead. Cut banana leaves or parchment paper into 6-inch squares. Oil squares. Add 1 Tbsp. flattened banana dough to each square. Drop 1 tsp. egg mixture in center of dough. Wrap dough in paper, rolling into sausage shape. Steam 30 mins. Serve warm.



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