

CALL2PRAYER

PRAY WITH US THIS RAMADAN



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this year's Ramadan prayer guide. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar and is the holiest time of year for Muslims. It marks the period when Muslims believe the Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad.

During Ramadan, Muslims fast from dawn until sunset, refraining from food, drink and other physical needs. They devote themselves to prayerful reflection and generosity. Each evening the fast is broken with a meal called iftar and the month ends with the celebration of Eid al-Fitr.

Ramadan is divided into three ten-day periods, known as Ashras: the first Ashra emphasises mercy, the second focuses on forgiveness and the final Ashra centres on salvation from hellfire.

From a Christian perspective, these themes echo ideas that are familiar yet slightly different in Christianity. As Christians, we believe that God shows unconditional love and mercy, He forgives our sins when we ask and salvation is made possible through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

As Christians, Ramadan is a great time to pray for Muslims, start interesting conversations, listen and learn. While we may differ in our understanding of God and salvation, Christ calls us to love our neighbour and speak to people with compassion, grace and truth.

YOUR PRAYER MAKES A DIFFERENCE

God is powerfully at work across the Middle East, drawing people to Jesus. During Ramadan - a time of deep spiritual searching - Middle East Media (MEM) increases its media outreach so more people encounter the hope of Jesus. These moments spark questions, the beginning of faith journeys and sometimes instant transformation. Your prayer plays a vital role in these breakthroughs.

Our aim is to not just produce media ourselves; it is also to train and launch emerging media ministries. These ministries are indigenous teams, who are rooted in their communities and are best placed to share Jesus with them.

As you go through this guide, each Ashra will focus on praying for a country and media team that MEM has launched. This allows you to pray for specific people and situations in the Middle East. Whether you use this guide in a quiet moment at home or as part of your daily routine, even a few minutes has an impact.

Thank you for walking with us and our teams in the Middle East, and for your heart to intercede for others.

This year Ramadan is due to start on the 17th of February. You can start this guide on that date.

WAYS YOU CAN USE THIS GUIDE:

- Follow day-by-day and pray for people in the Middle East and in your community.
- Share this with your small group. Learn about Ramadan and pray together throughout the 30 days.
- Talk to your church leader and offer this as a resource to equip your church to pray throughout Ramadan.



FIRST ASHRA

DAYS 1-10

ASHRA OF MERCY (RAHMAH) COUNTRY & MEDIA TEAM FOCUS: TÜRKIYE



The opening days of Ramadan focus on Allah's mercy and compassion. Muslims begin the month by seeking God's kindness and blessing as they enter a season of fasting, prayer and self-discipline.

Key Themes

- Mercy and compassion
- Spiritual awakening
- Humility and dependence on Allah
- Establishing rhythms of prayer and fasting

Notable Days

- 1st day of Ramadan: Beginning of the fast; a time of intention-setting and spiritual renewal.

DAILY PRAYERS

1 Spend a few minutes connecting with God and praying for the next 30 days. Pray that God would bring His truth and spiritual revival to Muslims in your community and across the Middle East.

2 Think about those in your community who are starting to fast during Ramadan. Pray that you would be able to have good conversations and learn more about Ramadan from them.

3 During Ramadan many businesses and government agencies in the Middle East shut down or have fewer working hours. Pray for our teams that they can still operate well and work on our projects during this time.

4 Lack of food and water can cause lapses in concentration. Pray that people would stay safe and listen to their bodies before driving or operating machinery.

5 Pray for comfort for persecuted Christians who have been rejected, harassed or attacked because of their faith in Türkiye.

In 2024, we travelled to Türkiye to train 14 Kurdish new believers in how to create media and run media outreach. They are part of a large church on the border with Iran and they have four church locations across Türkiye. They wanted to use different content and languages to reach Kurds, Turks and Azerbaijanis, as well as Iranians who cross the border to visit Türkiye.

They now use Instagram, TikTok, and Facebook to share about Jesus. Their TikTok pages are seeing huge engagement from Gen-Z. Hana, a member of the team says:

“ We never expected this much interest in such short videos. People are hungry for hope - when we address that need, they respond. ”



TÜRKIYE



The media team in Türkiye has been using Instagram to have deeper conversations with people. At first, the volume of private messages was overwhelming, particularly from those asking deep theological or pastoral questions. To manage this, the team began working in shifts and created a content guide to help maintain consistency in responses.

Dealing with censorship was also a challenge. The team has since adjusted language and images to avoid being reported, while still communicating the truth about Jesus clearly.

“A young couple began interacting with our online content. Eventually they started messaging us with deep questions about faith. After weeks of discussion, we connected them with local believers who are now meeting with them regularly for discipleship.”

“Nara, a 19-year-old student who’d been following our Instagram page, contacted us recently. After many one-to-one online conversations, she decided to follow Jesus. She is now being discipled by a team member and is excited to share her story with others.”

6 Pray that this media team in Türkiye would know God’s presence and that He would bless their efforts to share the gospel with Turks, Kurds, Azerbaijanis and Iranians.

7 Pray for Iran, which is on the border with Türkiye, “Be merciful just as your father is merciful” (Luke 6:36). Pray that the leaders in Iran would show mercy and act compassionately towards their people.

8 Pray for churches that are under tight government surveillance in Türkiye and the underground church in Iran, that they would know God’s comfort.

9 Ask God to reveal to churches in the West how they can reach out to Muslims in their community. Pray for understanding and for the church to show love.

10 As we end the days of mercy, pray that all Middle Easterners would know true mercy and grace in their lives, that can only come from God.



SECOND ASHRA

DAYS 11-20

ASHRA OF FORGIVENESS (MAGHFIRAH)

COUNTRY & MEDIA TEAM FOCUS:
LIBYA



This middle portion emphasises repentance and forgiveness. Muslims are encouraged to reflect on their lives, seek forgiveness for sins and extend forgiveness to others.

Key Themes

- Repentance
- Forgiveness
- Inner purification
- Reconciliation with others

Notable Days

- 15th day of Ramadan: Midpoint of the month; in some traditions there is an increase of worship, with a focus on extra prayers and reflection.

DAILY PRAYERS

11 As we start the days of forgiveness, read Ephesians 4:32 and meditate on what forgiveness truly means. Pray that everyone across the Middle East would have a fresh revelation.

12 Pray that those trying to earn God's favour through effort alone would encounter the message of grace, and that many would come to know the forgiveness that God offers.

13 Pray for families that are broken across the Middle East. Ask God to help bring them together during this time, help to heal old wounds and bring reconciliation.

14 Pray for those who take great risks to own a Bible, including digital Bibles, in places like Libya and other challenging countries in the Middle East.

15 The midpoint of Ramadan is significant for many Muslims. Pray that, as they spend more time in prayer and reflection, they ask questions of God and search for deeper truth.

MEM started working with a group of three people from Libya in 2022, training and mentoring them in media skills. We can't share many details about them here, as being a Libyan Christian is dangerous. The group wanted to share the gospel with other Libyans, and they wanted to do it using an audio Bible, so we helped them.

We helped them to start translating the Bible into Libyan dialect and trained them in making audio recordings. Last year, after much hard work, intercession and perseverance, they launched a Libyan Bible App, which is available on Google Play and the Apple App Store.



16

Praise God for the success of the audio Bible for Libya and that His word is available in Libyan Arabic.

17

Pray for forgiveness across Middle Eastern nations and people groups. Pray for Libya, which has faced years of deep division and political tension.

18

Pray that many Muslims would experience God's kindness during this season, becoming aware of their need for forgiveness and discovering the peace that comes from knowing Him.

19

Libya is one of the most dangerous places in the world to be a Christian. Pray that Christians will continue to have faith amid persecution.

20

Intercede for ministries like Middle East Media and local believers, that they would speak with love and clarity, and that God would prepare hearts to receive their message.



LIBYA

Creating this audio Bible wasn't an easy journey. It was filled with setbacks from persecution, threats of violence and death, and even poor health in their families. As they progressed, we supported them spiritually and practically. We encouraged them and helped them to hone their skills, raise funds and find a partner to develop the app.

Our local partner, Saeed, shares: **“In an oral culture, audio Bibles are crucial. When a successful audio Bible is produced, you'll find non-Christians, new Christians, churches and missionaries using it, and that's what you're seeing here. Within the first three months, the app was downloaded 13,000 times. This level of engagement is unprecedented in Libya, and signals a major success.”**



THIRD ASHRA

DAYS 21-30

ASHRA OF SALVATION (NAJAH) COUNTRY & MEDIA TEAM FOCUS: SUDAN AND SOUTH SUDAN



The final Ashra is the most spiritually intense, focusing on deliverance from hellfire and deep devotion. Many Muslims increase prayer, spend nights in worship and seek Allah intently.

Key Themes

- Salvation and deliverance
- Persevering prayer
- Surrender and devotion
- Hope and spiritual urgency

Notable Days

- Laylat al-Qadr (Night of Power): Occurs on one of the odd-numbered nights in the last ten days, most commonly associated with the 27th night; believed to be when the Qur'an was first revealed.
- Last ten nights: A heightened time of prayer and spiritual focus.

DAILY PRAYERS

21 Ask God to stir hearts across the Middle East to seek Him sincerely, especially during the final, most intense days of Ramadan.

22 For media teams and the church in Sudan and South Sudan, that they may continue to be salt and light.

23 That God's saving power would spread across Sudan and end the war that has ravaged the country in recent years.

24 Pray for those crossing into South Sudan to escape the violence. May they find food, water, support and a safe place to stay.

25 That Middle Easterners would have a spiritual awakening and know what is true and righteous.

Last year, a South Sudanese group contacted us asking if we could help them. They want to reach the Masalit tribe, a group from Sudan that has suffered greatly from the ongoing Sudanese civil war.

The Masalit tribe has an oral culture, so this South Sudanese group wants to create an audio Bible for them. They had been busy translating the Bible into the Masalit, but didn't know how to record the translation.

Immediately, we knew how we could help. Four years ago, we trained another ministry in South Sudan in audio recording. We helped them build a recording studio on the roof of their local orphanage and they now produce popular weekly and daily programmes for national radio stations.



AND SOUTH SUDAN

26

Intercede for those trapped by anxiety, legalism or spiritual darkness, that God would bring deliverance and assurance of His saving love.

27

Laylat al-Qadr is anticipated for the 27th day of Ramadan. Pray that as Muslims are seeking spiritual things, they experience the truth of God in dreams and visions.

28

That people would find answers about God through media and other believers in their countries.

29

Lift up those who choose to follow Christ, that God would surround them with courage, wisdom and a supportive community.

30

Thank God in advance for lives being changed, prayers being answered and His kingdom advancing across the Middle East during this powerful season.



SUDAN AND SOUTH SUDAN

Mike, MEM's Media Teams Director, has put these two South Sudanese media teams in touch. They've now used the roof studio to produce a sample recording of the Bible. Next, they're planning to do the full recording together, ready for sharing with the Masalit people and helping them to start their faith journey.

“It was difficult and hard work to set this team up four years ago, and to train and encourage them. But God is using this audio studio. He has a long-term plan and sees things we do not see. By planting this very humble team and facility, God is using them to be a tool to serve others, including this very special and specific tribe. It is very encouraging to see God doing His work in and through this team.”

– MIKE, MEDIA TEAMS DIRECTOR



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