

Ramadan

PRAYER GUIDE FOR MUSLIMS



INTERNATIONAL
MISSION BOARD



Let's pray during Ramadan

Every year billions of Muslims observe a month-long fast from sunrise to sundown called Ramadan, one of the pillars of Islam. For many, it's tradition and an anticipated time to share with families and communities. For other Muslims, Ramadan is about self-denial or overcoming evil desires and appetites, renewing vows to live a moral life, reading the Qur'an again, extra times of prayer, and performing acts of charity. But religious duties like Ramadan cannot solve our greatest problem: humanity's sinful rebellion against a holy God. The good news of Jesus is largely unknown among Muslims.

As Muslims observe Ramadan, may we, the Church, pray to the one, true God for their salvation. Their greatest problem, even in their season of prayer, remains spiritual lostness. Like us, they need the only solution—the gospel. Pray this month for Muslims' response to the gospel and for missionaries who daily serve among them. Our God is listening!

God hears our prayers

During Ramadan 2007, in such a time of heightened spiritual awareness among Muslims, workers asked us to pray for Chief Moses. He leads a village of Wassulu people in West Africa. After having a dream about Jesus, Chief Moses began studying the Bible, but he was unwilling to leave Islam.

For the past two decades, Chief Moses has been a friend to workers among the Wassulu and has heard the gospel many times. When his health rapidly declined in January 2023, workers visited him and walked through the gospel with him again. With deep joy and awe, they listened as Chief Moses repented in prayer and declared he wanted to follow Jesus. Praise God for what He has done in Chief Moses's life! God answered the prayers we said during Ramadan over a decade ago.

This Ramadan, join us in asking God to move in incredible ways once again. Your prayers will have a direct impact on our IMB vision—a multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language knowing and worshiping our Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 7:9).

** Some names have been changed for security.*



DAY 01

Punjab, Pakistan, is a region home to over 110 million people, with the vast majority of that population identifying as Muslim. Punjabi Muslims are the largest ethnic group in Pakistan and the world's third-largest Muslim ethnicity. Lahore is the most populous city in Punjab, with an estimated 11 million people. ***Pray that the hearts of the Punjabi people would be open and sensitive to the truth of the gospel. Pray many Punjabis would come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ this Ramadan.***

DAY 02

Mappila Muslims are a minority people group in the southern tip of India with very little access to Scripture, churches, or born-again believers. They live in small communities surrounded by a Hindu majority. Given their minority status, they are very wary of outsiders and lean on their Islamic heritage to distinguish themselves from other Indians around them. Their pride in their community swells during Ramadan as they find solidarity with one another through their fast. ***Pray for opportunities to introduce this community to Christ.***

DAY 03

Over 200 million Bengali Muslims are once again establishing the rhythm of Ramadan in their homes. Men spend more time at the mosque attending special extended times of prayer. Predawn breakfasts and dusk meals are essential family gatherings. Bengali Muslims live predominantly in India and Bangladesh but are also scattered all over the world, often living in community whenever possible. ***Pray for God to send believers to share the eternal hope available through a relationship with Jesus. Pray Muslims will believe what they hear.***

DAY 04

Believers working among South Asians have found digital media to be an effective tool for engaging Muslims with the good news. More people are spending their days online, looking for answers and community. ***Pray that God would draw South Asian Muslims to Himself through media. Pray for God to guide believers who engage seekers in online gospel conversations. Pray for many to repent, believe, and take up their cross to follow Christ.***

DAY 05

Muslims observe the Ramadan fast in an attempt to focus their thoughts on Allah by seeking forgiveness, remembering the poor, and living peaceably with others. Non-practicing Muslims are expected to observe other tenets of Islam, with some women going further by donning a veil during this month. Each sunset, Muslims break the fast by eating dates, as their prophet did, and then consume delicious feasts throughout the night. ***Come before God's throne of grace, and plead for mercy for Muslims because salvation belongs to the risen Lamb.***

DAY 06

Roughly one million Rohingya refugees still live in crowded camps on the coast of Bangladesh. The vast majority of these refugees are Muslim. They have faced unspeakable horrors at the hands of people who hate them and have pushed them out of Myanmar with violence. Many refugees have lost loved ones, and they all have lost their homes. They have no citizenship anywhere. ***Pray the Rohingya would learn of the God who sees them, loves them, and desires to give them a hope, future, and home with Him for all eternity.***

DAY 07

Many Central Asians are secular Muslims. Their identity cards label them as "Muslim," but they don't perform Islam's ritual prayers or find any personal hope in its tenets. If honest, some secular Muslims even lean toward deism or atheism. During this month of fasting, some will put on a façade of fasting to satisfy the community around them. Others make no pretense and take pride in their progressiveness. ***Pray God will reveal Himself to secular Central Asians. Pray their dissatisfaction with Islam will propel them to research Christianity and believe in Jesus for salvation.***

DAY 08

Muslim prayers must be performed in Arabic, a language most Central Asians do not speak. They speak other languages like Kazakh, Turkman, Farsi, or Turkish. They learn Arabic prayers—and some even learn to read the Qur'an—but very few Central Asians actually understand the "holy" words they recite. During this month of Ramadan, many Central Asians will work hard to pray, fast, and read the Qur'an. ***Pray God will open their hearts to seek God through Jesus Christ, the Word of God who reveals himself as Savior to all peoples of all languages.***





DAY 09

Many Central Asians are migrant workers. They leave their families and travel to big cities like Moscow or Istanbul to work for months at a time. Many work illegally and face unreliable wages from cruel employers. Ramadan often brings Muslim families together for celebratory sunset feasts to break the daily fast. Central Asian migrant workers, however, are alone and far from home. ***Pray their loneliness will lead them to search for something true and beautiful to fill the hole in their souls. Pray they will encounter the gospel online or through encounters with believers in their places of employment.***

DAY 10

In some places, the government mandates that everyone fast from sun up to sun down during Ramadan. This puts believers in Jesus in a difficult position. Many believers struggle with how to be respectful while still honoring Christ because they no longer believe that fasting is necessary because they know that salvation comes by faith through grace alone. Some may choose to fast while others may abstain, with both groups praying their example initiates gospel conversations. ***Either way, pray for believers from Muslim families. Ask God to give them discernment during the month of Ramadan.***

DAY 11

Most believers in Central Asia are the only believers among their Muslim families. This month of Ramadan is a challenge, but it is also an opportunity for believers as they interact with their families about fasting and religious acts. Please pray that God will embolden these believers and make them courageous and faithful. Some of them have not yet told their families they believe in Jesus. ***Pray they will openly confess their faith and that many of their family members will also repent and believe in Jesus the Messiah for salvation.***

DAY 12

Ramadan is a time when Muslims are very aware of dreams and visions. They believe dreams are a direct way that Allah chooses to reveal himself to people. During this time of heightened spiritual focus, Muslims are often seeking a special message or revelation. As Christians have prayed earnestly for their Muslim neighbors and friends during this season, they hear reports of dreams and visions in which Jesus appears to these friends and draws them to Himself. ***Pray Muslims will have dreams and visions of Jesus. Pray the Lord would lead them to Christians who can explain the meaning of the dreams.***

DAY 13

Muslim refugees in South Africa will go without food and water all day during Ramadan in a vain attempt to receive merit. They will futilely pray to a god who cannot save them. These hungry bodies are truly hungry souls searching for the way to eternal life. ***Pray that as these refugees hunger and thirst for physical food and water this month, God would satisfy their souls with the good news of salvation that only comes through Jesus, the Bread of Life, and the Living Water.***

DAY 14

Hundreds of IMB missionaries serve among Muslim people groups around the world. They have deep and meaningful relationships with them. More than anything, they want their friends to accept the truth of the gospel and have the boldness that is needed to turn to Jesus. ***Pray that missionaries will have special opportunities this month to share the gospel. Pray they will be ready to respond to spiritual questions their Muslim friends might have during Ramadan.***

DAY 15

Fourteen hours. That's how long Muslims from Sub-Saharan Africa who live in France will abstain from food and drink during Ramadan. However, life continues—they head to work, drop their kids off at school, attend class, and go to appointments. Many of these Muslims will be overlooked as many in France don't know it is Ramadan. ***Pray French believers will not overlook the African immigrants who are fasting in Paris. Pray they can see Muslims' desire for holiness as an opportunity to share the righteousness of Christ that presents all who believe in Him as forgiven people before God.***

DAY 16

Fawzia* is a Muslim woman in northern Mozambique who has heard the gospel and expressed her desire to follow Jesus. However, her Muslim husband will not allow her to attend the local church or be baptized. Pray for Fawzia and the many women like her in Mozambique and around the world who want to follow Jesus but are prohibited by their husbands. ***Pray that in spite of the cost, they would repent, receive Jesus, and become His disciples. Pray that their husbands would also hear the gospel and turn to Jesus so that whole households would be saved.***



DAY 17

A group of Muslims from several countries in Central Asia live in a large city in South America. They have befriended an IMB worker and have invited his family to events in a large park. One Muslim named Joseph* is very open to discussing the God of the Bible and wants to know more about Jesus. ***Pray for this worker and others who are sharing the truth of the Bible with Joseph and his friends. Pray for opportunities to meet together peacefully despite busy schedules and differing views.***

DAY 18

The Bosnian War of 1992 to 1995 was a catalyst for a resurgence of Islam in Bosnia. In recent years, Islam has continued to strengthen, and Muslims are doubling down on religious practice and are becoming more insular. ***Pray people will not further ingrain themselves in Islam. Pray that the country remains peaceful, and those who have been involved in Bible studies will continue to meet, and that struggling churches will find ways to minister. Most of all, pray that Muslims realize that their works will not help them when they meet the Lord.***

DAY 19

Albanian Ghegs are a people group living throughout Europe with varying levels of devotion to their Islamic faith. Some strictly observe the Ramadan fast, some don't change their lifestyle in the slightest, and many give an appearance of devotion while secretly breaking the fast. Pray for lost Albanians to realize that their outward actions—like self-denial and ritual washing—matter less to God than a broken and contrite spirit. ***Pray for the believing Albanians to find creative ways to share that true cleansing only comes through the blood of Jesus Christ.***

DAY 20

More than 25,000 Muslim refugees live on the island of Lesbos in Greece. Lesbos is a favorite destination for smugglers who charge refugees 1,000 euros to crowd in with 50 others into a rubber boat designed for 15 people. Most refugees live in a cramped camp with 20,000 other refugees. In the midst of this, God is at work. One Central Asian leader named Haza* lives in Lesbos so he can share Christ boldly, disciple believers, and form churches. ***Pray for Haza as he shares, disciples, and trains leaders in a difficult place.***





DAY 21

South Asia is home to more than 500 million Muslims. They live in slums and high-rise apartments. They are impoverished rickshaw drivers and wealthy business owners. They pray at mosques in the mountains, valleys, cities, and villages. They spend Ramadan abstaining from food and water, with some trying to not even swallow their saliva lest they disqualify their fast. ***Pray for South Asian Muslims to feel discontent in this constant struggle and seek answers that Islam cannot provide. Pray for believers who will boldly introduce them to the Way, the Truth, and the Life.***

DAY 22

Istanbul is home to religious and nominal Muslims. During Ramadan, some neighborhoods will bustle as normal with people enjoying coffee shops. Others will have empty streets as people stay home while fasting. This month will increase some Turks' devotion to Islam, but for others, it will remind them why they have distanced themselves or have left it completely. ***Pray that Christians in Istanbul will have opportunities to have spiritual conversations with Muslims this month. Pray that many will accept God's free gift of salvation, which is not based on their good deeds but on His mercy to them.***

DAY 23

While many Muslims fast during Ramadan out of duty, many others do so with excitement and pride. Millions of devout Muslims worldwide will start and finish Ramadan zealous for their beliefs. ***Pray for Muslim who are very religious but do not have a personal relationship with their Creator. Pray that in these days of fasting and feasting Muslims would truly seek God and come to know the one true God and Creator. Pray that they come to see their sin and need for the salvation that is only found in Jesus.***

DAY 24

As you pray for Muslims all over the world, know that there are probably people living close to you who are fasting and take Ramadan very seriously. You may not even know they are fasting because you don't know they are Muslim. Many Muslims are more spiritually open during this time, particularly in the days just after Ramadan. ***Pray for Muslims living near and far. Take advantage of this opportunity to enter conversations that lead you toward the gospel.***



DAY 25

Deaf Muslims are usually on the periphery of a majority society, which often solidifies their attachment to their communities. Yet in most ways, Deaf Muslims celebrate Ramadan the same as all Muslims. They pray, they fast, they donate to the poor—all with the desire to be a part of a community and to earn favor from Allah. ***Pray that Deaf people who adhere to Islam will learn about Jesus through friends or dreams that open their hearts to the Word. Pray for God to send out more Deaf Christians to share the hope of Christ with their Muslim friends.***

DAY 26

Since Muslims must fast during daylight, they typically rise before the sun and eat as much as possible. Most women wake up in the middle of the night to prepare a meal for their families to eat before dawn. A month of this schedule leads to a lot of exhaustion and even resentment. ***Pray God would uphold women as they serve their families during Ramadan. Ask Him to reveal His Son as the source of true rest, peace, and identity.***

DAY 27

The 27th night of Ramadan is considered the “Night of Power” when Muslims believe angels and spirits descend and carry out the commands of Allah. Muslims often stay awake until morning and pray for blessings and forgiveness. Because many expect visions, dreams, wonders, and proper interpretations of their dreams during this season—and particularly during this night—***pray that people will experience dreams of Jesus that will lead them to seek and be open to truth from a biblical witness or exposure to God’s Word.***

DAY 28

Many Brazilian Christian churches and workers are waking up to the growing number of Brazilians converting to Islam. These conversions are due to aggressive proselytization efforts organized in local mosques. ***Pray national churches will engage their Muslim friends and neighbors with grace and hospitality during Ramadan. Ask God to raise up more Brazilian mission workers to be trained and equipped to share Jesus with their fellow countrymen and bring them to true faith in Jesus Christ.***

DAY 29

The global church has a unique opportunity every year for meaningful conversations with Muslims during Ramadan. Pray that the church uses this time to extend and accept hospitality to their Muslim friends. *Pray we will be eager to listen, humble in our evangelism, and wise in how we build conversation bridges from Ramadan to Christ. Ask for God's blessings and Spirit to move mightily through our interactions with Muslims during Ramadan and afterward.*

DAY 30

As Ramadan comes to an end, it is tradition for children to return home and ask their parents for forgiveness for wrongs they have committed. *Pray that as they seek to honor their earthly fathers, they will see the living God as Father. Pray for the parents approached by their children. Ask God to use this tradition to help them think about the ways they have fallen short of Allah's holiness and whether they can obtain guaranteed forgiveness from him. Pray that this leads them to the Word and a believer who can share how their sins can be forgiven.*

DAY 31

Muslims conclude the last day of Ramadan with Eid al-Fitr (the Festival of Fast-Breaking). Entire neighborhoods may come together over a huge feast, complete with fireworks and gifts, to celebrate their endurance and generosity toward others during Ramadan. However, when life goes back to normal after the feast, many Muslims report feeling sad or disappointed. Some hoped their fasting would yield a felt nearness to Allah, but instead they feel just as distant as they did before Ramadan began. *Pray for God to use the days following Ramadan to steer Muslims toward truth. Ask God to put believers in their path who can share the gospel and invite them into eternal assurance of salvation.*





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