

# 30 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR THE MUSLIM WORLD



## Praying as a small group

### Summary

During Ramadan Muslims are fasting and praying. As they are going without food (bread) and spending more time in prayer and reflecting on God, this outline helps us reflect on Jesus as the bread of life and pray for Muslims to come to know him as that.

The outline suggested is designed to take about an hour but can be easily adjusted / adapted to take a little longer or less time.

### In preparation

- 1 Get different types of bread – naan, flatbread (or pitta), chapati, and cheese covered bread. Cut them into enough pieces for everyone to taste one of each. Put them on separate plates and label them 1–4.
- 2 Have the bread story ready to tell (Appendix A)
- 3 Print three different sheets of prayer cards (Appendix B) and cut up
- 4 Have the means to show the video (download ahead of time if needed)

### Open in prayer

Lead the group in a prayer asking God to speak to you through this time, or use this prayer

*Lord we thank you for your desire that none should perish.  
We ask that you would show us more of your heart for the nations,  
That you would increase our understanding of Muslim peoples,  
And that you would lead and guide our prayers and discussions.  
Please be at work in us as we spend this time together,  
Change us as we spend time in your presence,  
And change hearts and communities through the prayers we pray today.*

### Bread tasting

Have each person try the different breads and guess which Muslim region / country they are traditionally eaten in. Give them the following six possibilities – North Africa, India / Pakistan, Middle East, Malaysia, East Africa, Russian Caucasus.

#### Answers:

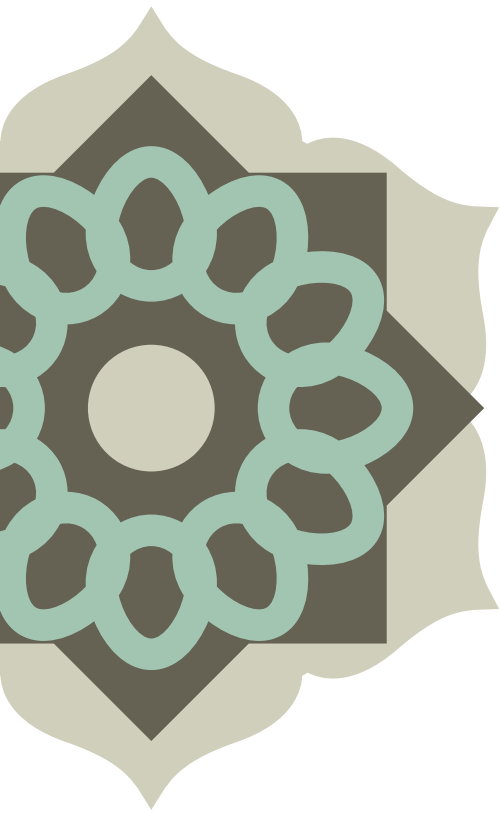
Naan = Pakistan/India

Flatbread/pitta = Middle East

Chapati = East Africa including Chad and Sudan (but also India/Pakistan)

Cheese covered bread = Muslim parts of Russia e.g. the Caucasus, Dagestan, etc.

We will be focusing our prayers later on these areas of the Muslim world.



### Story

Read the story in Appendix A.

What does the story highlight of the importance of bread in Middle Eastern culture? There is an Egyptian proverb that says, “He who has the bread has the whole of happiness”. The image of bread is important to Christians too – we pray that God would give us our daily bread, Jesus used bread as the ultimate metaphor when he spoke of his body, blessed, broken and shared (Matt 26:26).

### Bible study

That wasn't the first time Jesus spoke of bread in connection with himself. After the Feeding of the 5000 – bread again! – Jesus said this:

Read John 6:30–51 through twice (different people)

Ask for a volunteer to retell the passage in their own words (others can chip in and help as needed)

### Discussion questions:

- 1 What do we learn about God / Jesus in this passage?
- 2 What do we learn about humankind / us in this passage?
- 3 How can we use these thoughts to help shape our prayers for Muslims (praying out of the truths in the passage)?

### Worship / prayer focused on God's character

Use a hymn or worship song and / or spoken worship

Ask people to praise God for the aspects of his character that they love. Use attributes or names of God and Jesus e.g. God as Father, Jesus as the bread of life, Jesus as the Prince of Peace.

Then pray for Muslims in the Middle East that they would come to know God in these ways. Encourage people to keep their prayers short – no more than a few sentences, so that everyone gets a chance to pray at least once. A map may help – showing the countries of the Middle East.

### Pray for unreached Muslim people groups

We want to lift our eyes, look to the fields and pray to the Lord of the harvest. The people groups we are praying for live in some of the least reached regions of the Muslim world – that is, there are not enough Christians (if any) to reach their own people with the gospel – they need outside help.

Split into groups of three to pray.

Hand out three prayer cards to each group; one card for each of the regions (India/Pakistan, Chad/Sudan and the Caucasus).

Each person prays in turn for one of the 'Ws' (below) for the unreached people group on their card (keep going until all of the 'Ws' have been prayed for, for all three of the people groups).

**Workers** – For more to go and share the good news with this people group.

**Word** – For Bible translations and resources in the mother tongue of this people group.

**Wonders** – For many within this people group to have dreams and visions of Jesus and for healings and other miracles to point the way to him.

### Pray for Muslims here in the UK

Encourage everyone to take time to reflect and be reminded of one Muslim they know or have met. This could be a friend, a neighbour, a work colleague or the taxi driver or shop keeper whose name they don't know.

In groups of three, each share the name or some details of the person they know. If they don't know anyone share this too.



Pray for each of the group of three in turn – that they would have opportunities to bless the Muslim they know and have spiritual conversations with them. If they do not know any Muslims, pray that God would bring Muslims across their path and give opportunities to bless them.

Watch the two minute video (story of a young Iranian lady coming to the UK and coming to faith in Jesus): <https://vimeo.com/217022963>

Pray that more Muslims in the UK will encounter the life changing power of Jesus and know him as the Bread of Life. Pray that they would meet followers of Jesus, have dreams and visions of Jesus, read the bible for themselves and have open hearts and minds to the message of salvation.

### To close

Sum up the time together and draw out reflections. Pray as you feel led or use the prayer below:

*Lord, we praise you for your love, mercy and compassion,  
And that your heart is to see many Muslims come into your kingdom.  
We pray that they will hunger for the one who gives eternal life,  
And will find you, the Bread of Life, who truly satisfies.  
Thank you that you hear our prayers and that things are changing in the Muslim world  
Even as we have prayed today.  
We lift all of our prayers before you in the name of Jesus and give you all glory.*

### Next steps

Have some 30 Day Guides available for group members who want to keep praying through Ramadan. Order copies at [www.30daysprayer.org.uk](http://www.30daysprayer.org.uk)

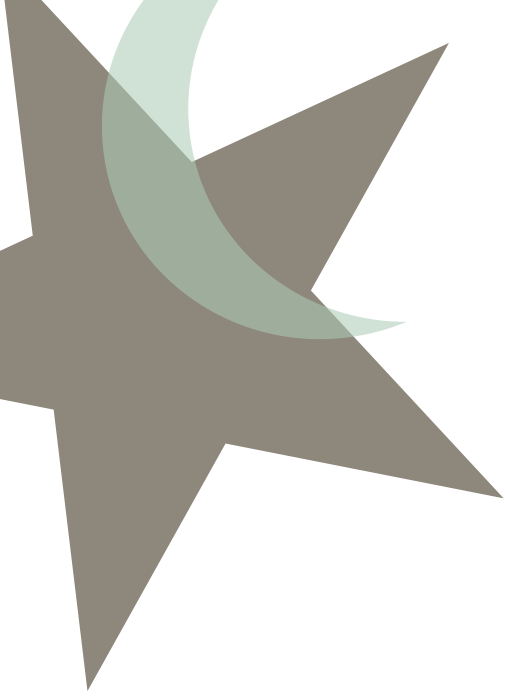
Find out more about unreached people groups at [www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net)

To receive a daily message during Ramadan – a prompt to prayer and practical engagement – sign up at [www.mahabbanetwork.com/lovefast](http://www.mahabbanetwork.com/lovefast). If you would like info and further resources for continuing to pray for Muslims locally contact Mahabba [www.mahabbanetwork.com](http://www.mahabbanetwork.com)

To pray ten minutes a day for the wider Muslim world – sign up at [www.frontiers.org.uk/praynow](http://www.frontiers.org.uk/praynow)

To extend your prayers to the Hindu World check out 15 Days of Prayer for the Hindu World at [www.15daysprayer.org.uk](http://www.15daysprayer.org.uk)





## Appendix A

"I never feel full unless I eat some bread," a Muslim told Jessica, a Frontiers field worker.

Bread plays an important part of life in Muslim community where Jessica lives. Her neighbours carefully hang tied bags of old bread on rubbish bins. They never throw bread away. Even discarding stale or moldy bread would be a sinful waste.

Author Hamed Ammar writes in *Growing Up in an Egyptian Village*,

*"Bread is not only filling, but also possesses an aura of sacredness, being believed to be the essence of life. The Arabic name given to bread is aish which literally means life. It is profane to put bread on the ground, and every effort must be made to pick up any crumb that falls to the ground for fear of it being trodden on. Children are also enjoined to kiss bread if it falls from their hands on the ground, and if they find it lying in the street to remove it into a crevice on the wall. They are punished if they throw bread from their hands when angry or annoyed, as this might make the baraka [blessing] fly from the house."*

Jessica noticed that, inevitably, those little bags of old bread would be collected by some hungry soul.

But Muslims need more than just physical aish. Recently, one of Jessica's Muslim friends begged her for resources to learn more about Jesus. She is hungry for the Bread that gives eternal life.

"Understanding their sacred view of bread makes me all the more excited to tell my friends about Christ, the true Bread of Life," (John 6:48–51) Jessica says. "May their hunger be filled by the Living Bread that comes down from heaven!"

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## Appendix B

Print three sheets of prayer cards for your group. You need one sheet for Chad or Sudan, one sheet for Caucasus and one sheet for Pakistan or India.

Prayer card for Dar Hamid of Sudan

<https://joshuaproject.net/pray/cards/single/11502/SU>

Prayer card for Bilala of Chad

<https://joshuaproject.net/pray/cards/single/10845/CD>

Prayer card for Brahui of Pakistan

<https://joshuaproject.net/pray/cards/single/10959/PK>

Prayer card for Rayeen of India

<https://joshuaproject.net/pray/cards/single/17328/IN>

Prayer card for Chechen of Caucasus (Russia)

<https://joshuaproject.net/pray/cards/single/11317/RS>

If wanted, more information about these people groups is here:

Info about Dar Hamid of Sudan

[https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/11502/SU](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/11502/SU)

Info about Bilala of Chad

[https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/10845/CD](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/10845/CD)

Info about Brahui of Pakistan

[https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/10959/PK](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/10959/PK)

Info for Rayeen of India

[https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/17328/IN](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/17328/IN)

Info for Chechen of Caucasus (Russia)

[https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/11317/RS](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/11317/RS)