

# Ramadan

30 DAYS OF  
PRAYER FOR  
MUSLIMS



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## *Why Pray during Ramadan?*

Every year Muslims spend an entire month in a concentrated time of fasting. They may fast because their family has always fasted, or because it is expected of them from their community, or because they feel the need to gain favor with Allah, or perhaps all of the above. Regardless, Muslims highly anticipate the social festivities and sense of community fostered by the month-long festival, called Ramadan.

Yet the hovering threat of a global pandemic may demand that this year's Ramadan be different. There may never have been a Ramadan in history when Muslims would feel so acutely the need to be right before God. As we all feel the fragility of humankind and our lack of control over our circumstances, Muslims may enter this season of Ramadan all the more eager to earn their holiness before Allah.

The good news the world needs right now—that Muslims need right now—has already been delivered through a Savior. As Muslims pray and fast, may we as the bride of Christ not fail to fast and pray to the one, true God for their salvation.

This month, pray for the one billion Muslims around the world. Pray like their life depends on it. Pray for God to move in incredible ways. Pray that today would be the day of salvation for many across the world. We know people from every nation, tribe, people, and language will be before the throne. As you pray this month, ask God for one more nation. One more tribe. One more people group. One more language where his praises ring out. Now is the time to intercede like never before.

*\*Indicates name changed*





**APR  
23**

Mosques have been closed all over Pakistan, yet many religious leaders tell Pakistani Muslims that they will incur more wrath from Allah by not doing Friday prayers in their local mosques. Muslims fear Allah's wrath and believe he will punish them if they don't pray in religious buildings. With coronavirus restrictions on gatherings, going to the mosque has not been an option. This leaves Muslims feeling concerned and disconnected. ***Pray that many Pakistanis will hear about the assurance of salvation and that comes through faith in Jesus.***

**APR  
24**

Mappilla Muslims are a minority people in the southern tip of India with very little access to the Scriptures, churches, or born-again believers. They live in pockets of community 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 community swells during Ramadan as they find solidarity with one another through their fast. It's obvious that the enemy has a stronghold on the Mappilla. ***Pray for opportunities to introduce this community to Christ.***

**APR  
25**

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 each day. 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 that Muslims will believe what they hear.***

**APR  
26**

Believers working among South Asians have found digital media to be an effective tool for engaging Muslims with the good news. With nations in various stages of coronavirus-related lockdowns and quarantines, 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.***



APR  
27

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 with dates, as their prophet did, and go on to consume delicious feasts throughout the night. ***Unite your hearts in bringing the Muslims before God's throne of grace, and plead for mercy because salvation belongs to the Risen Lamb.***

APR  
28

Approximately 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.***

APR  
29

Many Central Asians are secular Muslims. Their identity cards entitle 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.***

APR  
30

Muslim prayers must be performed in the Arabic language, yet Central Asians are not an Arab people. 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.***





MAY  
01

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.***

MAY  
02

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

MAY  
03

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.***

MAY  
04

A Central Asian woman working the cash register at the local market told her customer how afraid she was of COVID-19. She motioned to the cash on the counter: "I don't know what they've touched. I'm so afraid!" Millions of Central Asians are drowning in fear with no anchors for their souls. ***Pray for these fearful ones as the Ramadan fast begins. Pray God will reveal Himself in Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd. Pray they will believe in Jesus for salvation and find peace as they trust in Christ as the guardian of their souls (1 Pet. 2:25).***



MAY  
05

Muslim refugees in South Africa, separated from the one true God, 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. 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, that God would satisfy their souls with the good news of salvation that only comes through Jesus, the Bread of Life and the Living Water.***

MAY  
06

This year Muslims in Sub-Saharan Africa will face many challenges as they celebrate the month of Ramadan amidst market closures and social restrictions. This time is normally one of celebrating by feasting with friends and family. However, in light of COVID-19, many governments may make that difficult. Our Muslim friends believe that God is in control of everything and that his wrath can be appeased by their actions. ***Pray that they will see that it is impossible to please God on their own and that they would turn to Christ as the propitiation for their sins.***

MAY  
07

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 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.***

MAY  
08

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.***





MAY  
09

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.***

MAY  
10

The Bosnian War, now twenty-five years ago, was a catalyst for a resurgence of Islam in Bosnia. Due to COVID-19, Muslims are doubling down on religious practice, hoping their faith will protect them. They are also closing themselves off from outside community. ***Pray that people do not further ingrain themselves in Islam. Pray that the country remains peaceful, that those that have been involved in Bible studies still continue to meet, and that the struggling churches find ways to minister. Most of all, pray that Muslims realize that their works will not help them when they meet the Lord.***

MAY  
11

Albanian Ghegs are a people 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. At this time of heightened spiritual awareness, pray for lost Albanians to realize that their outward actions—like self-denial and 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.***

MAY  
12

More than 25,000 Muslim refugees live on the island of Lesbos, Greece. Lesbos is a favorite destination for smugglers who charge refugees one thousand euros to crowd with fifty others into a rubber boat designed for fifteen people. Most refugees live in a cramped refugee camp with 20,000 other refugees. Living conditions are ripe for a COVID-19 outbreak. In the midst of this, God is at work. One Central Asian leader named Haza\* lives in Lesbos to share Christ boldly, disciple believers, and form churches. ***Pray for Haza as he shares, disciples, and trains leaders in a difficult place.***



MAY  
13

South Asia is home to more than 500 million Muslims. They live in slums and high rises. They are impoverished rickshaw drivers and wealthy business owners. They pray at mosques in the mountains and valleys, in the cities and in 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.***

MAY  
14

Many Central Asians are grieving the loss of loved ones because of COVID-19. Especially in Iran, thousands of families are reeling from death and loss. In recent days, many Iranians have visited shrines where they kissed the shrines and prayed, exacerbating the spread of virus and loss. Spiritually, they are empty and lost. ***Pray that this hopelessness will open their eyes to the emptiness of Islam. Pray many will find hope in Jesus Christ as they encounter truth online or on satellite television.***

MAY  
15

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. Yet God wants to pursue them too. ***Pray for our Muslim friends 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.***

MAY  
16

No matter where you live, people around you will be fasting during Ramadan. You may not even know that they are fasting because you don't know they are Muslim. Is that the case where you are at in the US? As you pray for Muslims all over the world, know that there are many close to where you are live who are fasting and take Ramadan very seriously. Yet many Muslims are more spiritually open during this time, particularly in the days just after Ramadan. ***Pray for Muslims you know, and take advantage of this opportunity to enter conversations that lead you towards the gospel.***





MAY  
17

Deaf Muslims are usually on the periphery of majority society, which often solidifies their attachment to their own 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 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.***

MAY  
18

Given that Muslims must fast during daylight, they typically rise before the sun and eat as much as possible. Therefore, most women wake up in the middle of the night to prepare a meal for their families to eat before dawn. A month of such a schedule leads to a lot of exhaustion, and even resentment. ***Pray that 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.***

MAY  
19

The twenty-seventh 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 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.***

MAY  
20

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.***



MAY  
21

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 for believers to be eager to listen, humble in their 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 thereafter.***

MAY  
22

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.***

MAY  
23

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.***



# Going Further

As you reflect on your month of prayer, consider asking God how He might be leading you to further engage Muslims with the gospel. These resources can help grow your knowledge and love for Muslims, whether you want to build relationships with Muslims where you are or help your short-term mission team prepare for an overseas trip.

## Getting 2 Gospel: Islam

*A simple guide to help you go from normal conversation to gospel conversation*

## Explore Muslim Topics

*A collection of articles and training resources to introduce you to Islamic peoples and effective ministry among them*

