

A Great Light

A GUIDE TO PRAYING FOR MUSLIMS DURING RAMADAN

What is Ramadan?

During Ramadan, observant Muslims who are able embark on a sacred month of spiritual renewal. Within Islam, this time commemorates the divine revelation of the Quran to Mohammed through the angel Gabriel. The fast from food and water between dawn and sunset is one aspect of a broader spiritual pursuit that includes increased prayer, charitable giving, and community gathering. Through these practices, Muslims seek to deepen their consciousness of God, develop self-control, and strengthen their empathy for those in need.

In this season of heightened spiritual seeking, we as Christians hold a transformative truth, one that has the power to transform the hearts and lives of Muslims around the world: God's grace is freely given to all who believe. While hearts are most open to hearing this message, we have the privilege to pray that God will call our Muslim friends and neighbors to Himself. Ramadan presents a unique opportunity for Christians to seek God for the salvation of the Muslim world.

2 Billion Muslims Worldwide

More Muslims have come to faith in the past 17 years than in the last 1,400 years.

86% of Muslim people groups are unreached.

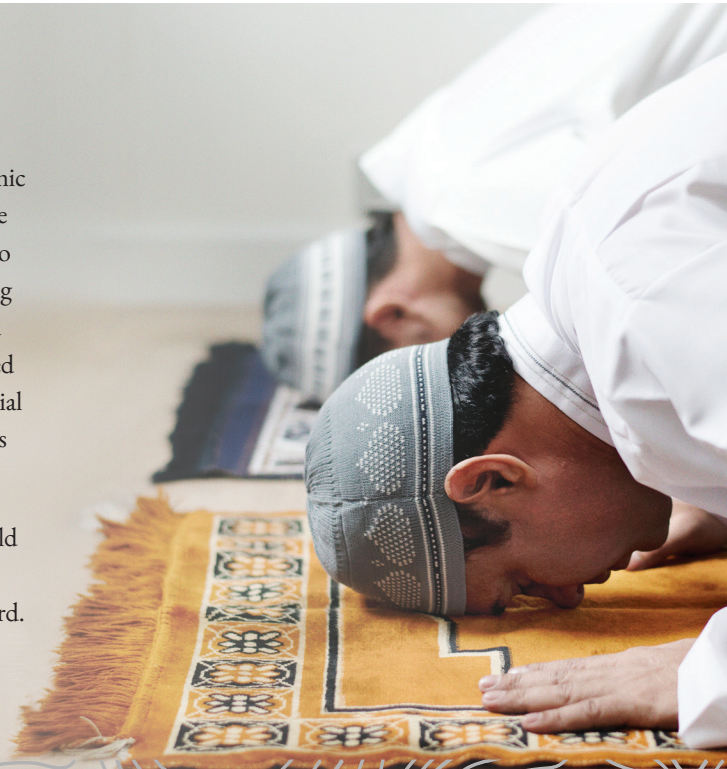
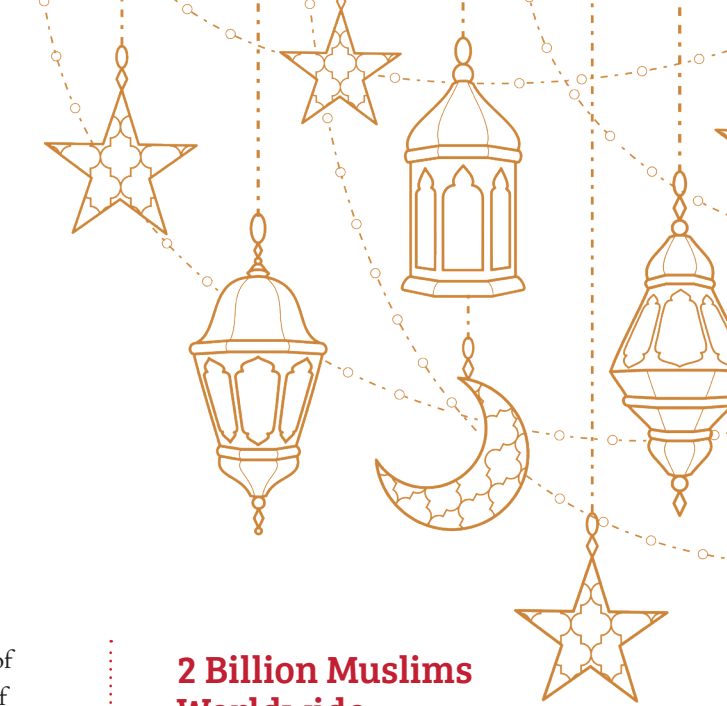
Statistics taken from: PrayerCast (prayercast.org), Pew Research Center (pewresearch.org), and Joshua Project (joshuaproject.net).

Rashid's Story

Rashid* grew up in a tribe deeply devoted to Islam. He traveled to different Islamic countries in his quest to know God and became an Islamic scholar. But the more he learned, the more he realized there was no love. Only an angry God, waiting to punish him. In Mali, he saw a group of Christians preaching about Christ during Ramadan. They told him that God loved him enough to give the gift of His Son and that despite the sins he had committed, God still loved him and had provided a way to deliver him. They shared with him that he didn't have to wait for a special day or month to beg for forgiveness because God had already granted forgiveness through Christ and that if he believed, he could become a child of God.

Rashid believed, and he did so knowing that if he converted from Islam, he would be excommunicated. When he told his family that he was a Christian, his father tried to kill him, but Rashid escaped. Today, he is in the faith and serving the Lord.

*PSEUDONYM USED





Pray

Muslims around the world are taking part in Ramadan this month in an attempt to earn favor with God. Here are a few ways you can pray for them.

- › Pray that they will become aware of sinful thoughts and desires that can't be avoided by fasting.
- › Pray for women, who have to work long hours in a fasting state to prepare the evening meals.
- › Pray for Jesus to reveal Himself through the church, dreams, and the Word.
- › Pray that they will be delivered from the burden of trying to earn God's favor.
- › Pray that they may receive the gift of love and forgiveness that God offers through Jesus Christ.



What can you do?

FAST

You don't have to fast to earn God's forgiveness, but now is a good time to fast in prayer for your Muslim friends and neighbors. Choose a day when you can abstain from food, social media, or something else that you would usually take part in, so that your desire for it can remind you to pray.

SHOW HOSPITALITY

Community and hospitality are very important in Muslim cultures, and Ramadan is a time when people enjoy sharing special evening meals together. Invite your Muslim friends over for an evening meal (halal). If they're from another culture, ask them to teach you how to make one of their special recipes for this season. If you have neighbors you don't know as well, drop off a gift of dates or a dessert. Talk to your church about hosting a community meal (iftar) if you're in a heavily-Muslim area.

SHOW RESPECT

Try not to eat or drink in front of someone you know is fasting. Be open to engaging in spiritual conversations, but always with "gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:16).



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