

# Ramadan

## What is Ramadan?

For 1.95 billion people around the globe, Ramadan is a season for seeking to draw close to God. It commemorates the time when, according to Islamic tradition, the angel Gabriel delivered the Quran to the prophet Mohammed. Muslims mark the month by fasting from food and water during the day. They seek to please God during this time, in hopes that their good deeds will earn them God's forgiveness and blessing.

Imagine trying to overcome all your natural desires in hopes that an angry God might be impressed enough to forgive your sin. Now, imagine hearing instead that God loves you and wants to forgive you so much that He sacrificed His Son to make it happen.

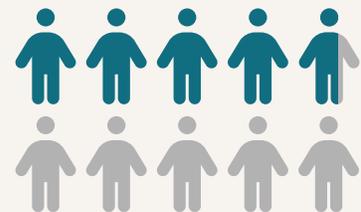


More Muslims have come to faith in the past 15 years than in the last 1,400 years combined!

**1.95**  
**BILLION**  
Muslims worldwide



**47%** of the unreached people groups in the world are Muslim



## 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. 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*

· Statistics taken from: Prayercast ([prayercast.org](http://prayercast.org)), Pew Research Center ([pewresearch.org](http://pewresearch.org)), and Joshua Project ([joshuaproject.net](http://joshuaproject.net)).

# 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).