



Ask

2 0 1 9

4-5 OCTOBER

SESSION
LEADERS' GUIDE

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Symbols

There are few symbols used throughout this guide to help you.



Important notice/key point



Read



Approximate timings



Prayer points

Printing

If you choose to print out this guide, please consider either reusing it after ASK 2019 or recycling the paper. Thank you.

Event preparation

This session leader guide is in the same order as the session outline in appendix 1. We highly recommend that you read and familiarise yourself with the session leader guide before the session starts.

If you're holding an event, you may want to start by reading out the sections in the welcome page.



What is ASK?

ASK 2019 is a dedicated time of prayer for the Middle East. Believers around the world will be praying from **4-5 October**, with the hope of seeing people come to Christ in a way that has never been seen before.

Why ASK?

Earlier this year, our Regional Leader for the Middle East was inspired by Psalm 2: 8:

***Ask** me, and I will make the nations your inheritance,
the ends of the earth your possession.*

He was inspired by the concept of 'inheriting' the nations as ambassadors of Christ, so we can pray for and impact societies through the gospel. So let us **ASK** God to equip His people who are ministering in the Middle East. Let us **ASK** for an outbreak of people running to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour.


Yours in Christ,

Mark

National Director
AWM-Pioneers

www.awm-pioneers.org/ask2019
#ASKME2019

Praise and worship

 Duration: 15 minutes

Session guide

As you enter into a time of prayer you could spend some time connecting with God in praise and worship.

Why we pray

🕒 Duration: 10 minutes

Session guide

You may wish to begin by reflecting on the following reminder of why we pray. To do this you may want to:

- Prepare a reflection **in advance** which is inspired by one of the verses below.
- Invite those you're praying with to take it in turns to read a passage aloud (see the guide on page 6 below); or
- Print and hand out the '**5 key verses on why we pray**' sheet (see appendix 2) for group reflection.

1. **By His words and example, Jesus taught his disciples to pray** – not only for themselves but also for the world. Some examples can be found in Matthew 6: 9-14 and Luke 11: 1-13.

❗ Read out the following passage(s).

📖 Matthew 6: 9-14

📖 Luke 11: 1-13

2. **Prayer moves the heart of the Church** towards the missionary heart of God. We can see God's heart for the world in Mark 16: 15 and Luke 10: 1-3.

❗ Read out the following passage(s).

📖 Mark 16: 15

📖 Luke 10: 1-3

3. **Prayer opens doors in the world for the gospel** to advance, making the impossible, possible. We can see this in Colossians 4: 2-4 and Acts 12: 5-19.

❗ Read out the following passage(s).

📖 Colossians 4: 2-4

📖 Acts 12: 5-19

4. **Prayer empowers the message**, replacing fear with fearlessness and using spiritual resources for the spiritual battle.

❗ Read out the following passage.

📖 Ephesians 6: 10-20

Praying for the lands of the Middle East

🕒 Duration: 20 minutes

Summary

These videos from Prayercast helpfully provide scenes and images of Arab peoples, to help us connect with the lives of those we're praying for.

- ❗ This section involves playing videos, which are downloadable from the Prayercast.com website.
- ❗ If you don't have video presentation facilities, we have provided extracts from a few of the countries in appendix 3.

Resources needed

For a video:

- A laptop
- A presentation screen e.g. TV or projector + blank wall/projector screen

A printer for paper print-outs

Session guide – video

- Print out the summary of the country, or have someone read it from the screen on the day.
- Choose two countries from the list below for people to pray through.
- Each video lasts for around 5 minutes, including some prayer points.
- When the prayer points come up, ask people to gather into small groups to pray for the country for 5 minutes, bearing in mind what they've read and heard.

Session guide – printed prayer points

- Gather into small groups.
- Ask someone in the group to read out the summary section, which gives an overview of the country you're praying for.
- Ask people to pray, bearing in mind the prayer points and what they've heard about the country.

Prayer videos

- Bahrain - <https://prayercast.com/bahrain.html>
- Egypt - <https://prayercast.com/egypt.html>
- Israel - <https://prayercast.com/israel.html>
- Jordan - <https://prayercast.com/jordan.html>
- Kuwait - <https://prayercast.com/kuwait.html>
- Lebanon - <https://prayercast.com/lebanon.html>
- Oman - <https://prayercast.com/oman.html>
- Palestine - <https://prayercast.com/gaza-strip-and-west-bank.html>
- Qatar - <https://prayercast.com/qatar.html>
- Saudi Arabia - <https://prayercast.com/saudi-arabia.html>
- Sudan - <https://prayercast.com/sudan.html>
- Syria - <https://prayercast.com/syria.html>
- UAE - <https://prayercast.com/united-arab-emirates.html>
- Yemen - <https://prayercast.com/yemen.html>

Praying for the cities

🕒 **Duration:** 20 minutes

Summary

This resource provides an insight into the lives of the people who live in these cities.

- ❗ This section involves playing videos, which are downloadable from the Prayericast.com website.
- ❗ If you don't have video presentation facilities, we have provided extracts from a few of the countries in appendix 3.

Resources needed

A printer

Session guide

If you are doing this session in a group, maybe ask 1-2 people to read each city profile aloud, and then pray over that city as a group.



In this United Arab Emirates city, materialism consumes many, stifling their need for God. Many desire to conform to an affluent lifestyle, while trying to hold onto the traditions of their people, which are not always compatible. While violent fundamentalist Islam continues to gain the world's attention, the country as a whole seeks to appear tolerant, while striving to advance their own Islamic faith.



Pray for the people of Al Ain to come to see how spiritually needy they are.

Those who seek the truth do so from within a culture that is bound by honour and shame. There is a constant need to conform, so the fear of shame upon themselves, their family and their tribe is great. They also fear the punishment of a tribal leader. Conversion to Christianity is illegal and can have serious consequences.



Pray that there will be more fear of the Lord and less fear of man.

Team members are always challenged by hectic work schedules, which they try to balance with meeting locals. The team desires to proclaim the truth, disciple and gather believers together. They want to meet and invest their time in those who already have an interest in the gospel. There are very few known local believers in Al Ain, so the focus is mainly on sowing seeds by sharing with friends. They are constantly looking out for new contacts, but finding locals who have an interest in what they have to say is challenging. Those who do have local contacts are searching for opportunities to share in a meaningful way. Pray for more spiritual

conversations to take place with locals. Ask that locals will become more receptive to spending time with non-Emiratis. They tend to keep themselves separate because they don't trust outsiders and want to maintain their identity. This makes building friendships hard work.



May God give the team greater faith for all that he has in store. Pray for God to guide the team to those in whom he has already begun to work, and for local media contacts to be found and linked up with team members.



In twenty years, large waves of refugees have almost doubled the population of Jordan's capital city of Amman, and the city is now struggling to balance its limited resources and economic opportunities. Prices have risen significantly, while job opportunities have greatly diminished. There is an undercurrent of unrest and dissatisfaction regarding the handling of refugees. Reconciling people's expectations with the reality of the situation will be an ongoing challenge for Amman's future.



Please pray for stability and security in Amman in spite of the numerous challenges. Pray too for a refugee ministry that is run by workers, which runs home-clinics, provides tests and medicines, and occasionally surgery. May new families be reached for Christ through this initiative and for the historical Church to be empowered in its interaction with various refugee populations.

As with many other urban Islamic cities, Amman is displaying greater levels of sensitivity to the gospel. Disillusionment has led many people to ask questions. Discussions are taking place on spiritual and societal topics in ways that have never been seen before. However, the challenge remains for many seekers to have in depth conversations with believers, to have regular discipleship, and to find ways of gathering with a community of believers. Cultural, community and governmental pressures are substantial. Consumerism and materialism also directly affect the attention and willingness of seekers, providing new obstacles for those who seek to share the gospel.



Please pray for sincere seekers to find ways to hear the gospel, and for local and foreign believers to be fearless in sharing the gospel clearly. May the growing networks of believers from a Muslim background take greater strides as they share the gospel and disciple new seekers.

Ask God to raise up leaders to provide vision and encouragement towards new levels of engagement with their families and communities. Pray too for new teams to have wisdom, diligence and tenacity to establish long-term ministries in spite of obstacles.



A major challenge for the people of Baghdad is the monumental task of rebuilding their lives and nation. Decades of war and destruction have ravaged the country. The economy, the infrastructure, the national identity and the very fabric of society have been shattered.

Great numbers of Iraqis are seeking Christ. They are hearing about Him through Christian radio and through the web. But it is a challenge to find people who can walk with these seekers and disciple them into mature followers of Christ who can, in turn, reach their families and communities. People are coming to faith. But so many Christian pastors and lay leaders have left Iraq over the past decades, that there are not enough to walk with those who are seeking and finding Christ.



Please pray for seekers and new believers to be discipled. Pray for more Iraqi believers and cross-cultural workers to disciple those who are coming to faith. Pray too for the Lord to touch and transform the lives of these precious people so that they can witness to their families and communities about the wonderful grace of Jesus Christ.

Before people are able to minister in Baghdad, they often face the challenge of getting there and being able to stay there. Workers need sustainable visas, a good self-care plan, and the grace of God to be able to settle in Baghdad for a useful period. However, instability, security challenges and a very difficult and awkward visa renewal process work against families staying long-term. Currently, the team is working on registering an educational business, which they hope will provide one-year

visas to members, and give a bit more stability and sustainability to life in the city. One family is in-country now and others are trying to get visas. Now that Baghdad and the rest of Iraq have begun to stabilise, we pray and hope for positive change.



Ask God to grow the team's vision and build their faith for all that He has in store. Pray for teams to find ways to remain in the city long-term. May there be a growing stability and security in Baghdad and that God will protect the team as they serve in this context.



Today Turkey's capital, Istanbul, is the fourth largest city worldwide. Thousands from the Middle East, displaced by wars, call this city 'home'. Pray that they will meet Jesus on their journey.

Most Arabs in the city are trying to settle, secure a decent job and find some semblance of decency, community and hope for their or their family's future. Most hold menial, manual labour jobs and their salaries are very low. Their children have been slowly integrating into Turkish schools and Turkish society. While some still desire to return to Syria, most Arabs who have made it to Istanbul are trying to settle there as immigrants. However, authorities have given the order that unregistered migrants must return to the province they came from, which has caused upheaval for many.



Please pray that any unregistered migrants who have come to know Christ, will hold onto their faith in these times of distress and uncertainty. Also pray for spiritual breakthrough to happen among Arabs in Istanbul – for spiritual hunger, sharing, miracles, healings, dreams and a widespread acceptance of the gospel message. We want to see new believers meeting together to study the Word and pray in their homes, and to see God moving among them.

As a secular state, the Turkish government does not have laws against conversion. However, social pressures and persecution are very prevalent. Friends and family members can make life difficult. Fear inhibits new believers from sharing their faith and stunts the growth of the Church among their people. Fear also prevents those disillusioned with their own faith from actively pursuing a life of faith in Christ.



Please pray for those who are suffering persecution to not be discouraged. May they gain more strength, confidence and faith through their experiences, and may they be an example to future generations of believers. Ask God to raise up key Arab seekers and believers who are members of communities and open to the gospel.

The team greatly needs more like-minded, team members who are fluent in Arabic. They have many contacts, mostly men, who need to be followed up. Most of these have come to them through media. The team's vision is to plant indigenous Arab house churches throughout the city of Istanbul, and there is hope that some Arab nationals will join them soon. However, many new believers prefer a more traditional church, and are not eager to start their own house church within their community. Please pray for God to provide more spiritually mature, trained, Arabic-speaking workers who have an understanding of cross-cultural ministry and church planting. May there be miracles, healings and answered prayers among ministries in the city.



In this Saudi Arabian city, people are trying to find meaning to their lives, often through money and possessions, but also through self-help books, videos, astrology and other New Age practices. Young people struggle to find jobs, even after studying abroad, and they long to have more freedom. Jeddah is also a route that people pass through as they embark on Hajj, the annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca.

Many people have lived in Saudi all of their lives. Some are the children or grandchildren of immigrants who made Saudi their home many decades ago. Yet they are not considered citizens of Saudi Arabia. As the government seeks to increase the number of Saudis working in many professions, non-citizens face growing challenges. Despite the breakthrough in women being allowed to drive, they continue to live with severe restrictions on their movements.



Pray for local believers to be salt and light in their families and communities. With the immigrant community facing rejection in the land, pray that this group will come to know that God loves them and wants to receive them into His Kingdom. Pray that there will be many opportunities for Saudi women to encounter Christ, despite the restrictions placed on them. May those who pass through Jeddah on their way to and from Hajj and Umrah leave hungering for something real.

Family and friends can exert a lot of pressure, making it hard for seekers to have the time and space to search for the truth and communicate with

others. There is real fear of what could happen to them and the people they love if their interest in Christianity is discovered.



Please pray for local believers to long for and regularly read and listen to God's Word. May God give endurance and perseverance, both to those who have come to minister in this city, and to those who were born there and have chosen to follow Christ.

Language barriers often hinder workers from finding people who are genuinely interested in the gospel and establishing deep relationships with them. Not having a Christian community makes it more difficult to disciple local believers and help them to stay focused. Not surprisingly, fear causes team members to hold back in outreach, and prevents local believers from sharing with family and friends. Team members struggle to balance work, family life, outreach, language learning and personal fellowship. Please pray for boldness and wisdom for those working as God's ambassadors in Jeddah. May their faithfulness bring God glory and honour.



Pray that Jeddah would also be known as a place where people come to Jesus. In a country that is steeped in Islam, and a city that welcomes millions of Muslim pilgrims each year, this could seem impossible. But the impossible is God's speciality. May God do something wonderful in and through the lives of the inhabitants of this city. May those who thirst, come to know of and drink from the living water that flows from Christ.

Praying for labourers

 **Duration:** 15 minutes

Summary

As people minister in the Middle East, it is a blessing to be able to support them in prayer as a global family. This resource provides an insight into the type of challenges and needs that people who serve in the Middle East could encounter.

Resources needed

A printer

Session guide

Please use the prayer points and verses below to inspire your prayers.

Either cut out the sections and hand them out to the group, or print out both pages for smaller groups to reflect and pray on.

Pray for the teams in the Middle East. As workers interact with potential new teammates, ask God to build teams with those whom He is calling, and at the appropriate time.

***‘May the God who gives endurance and encouragement
give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow
Christ Jesus.’***

Romans 15: 5

Pray for workers to love and grow together into strong teams. May they be family to one another, strategizing and praying together, and then ministering to others from that unity.

Pray that workers will find employment that can provide opportunities for ministry (e.g. medicine and teaching). Pray for workers to have many opportunities to speak about their faith to the people they live and work among.



***‘Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous.
Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD
your God will be with you wherever you go.’***

Joshua 1: 9

Pray for new workers as they start out on their ministry. Pray for smooth transitions and grace as they begin their journey of language and culture learning. May teams that receive them develop relationships with locals, particularly those who will be open to and interested in spiritual matters. Pray for them as they set up new homes and begin Arabic classes. May all our workers and teams be a blessing to those around them as they adjust to new cultures and language.

Some workers struggle with language skills in their cosmopolitan neighbourhoods, and find it difficult to make relationships. Please pray for God to work in these situations and give them His peace. May they know His encouragement as they serve in what can feel like very isolated situations.

‘The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.’

Acts 2: 47

Pray that God will bless their efforts as they work towards planting new churches and expanding them. Pray that they will be: Christ-centred in all that they do, strong in language acquisition and free from fear. Pray that they will learn from failure. Pray too that they will be open to trying new ways to connect with unbelievers, as the Holy Spirit leads.

Pray for workers to stay spiritually vibrant and Christ-centred and to keep in close fellowship with Him. Pray that they will make time for studying God’s Word, so that they will be like a well-watered tree that will produce fruitful works. Pray that their lives and ministry will bring hope and love to people around them.



‘Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.’

Galatians 6: 9

Workers can become weary and burdened in the busyness of their ministry and every day work. Please pray they will have energy and wisdom concerning how they structure their everyday lives. Pray that they won't become discouraged if they do not see the type of growth they want to see, as soon as they had hoped. May they have an enthusiasm and joy that is an outpouring of their relationship with the Lord, as they work together with local believers.

Pray for workers who feel they are in locations of very little light, the spiritual climate is heavy and their energy is sapped. Please pray for their strength to be renewed like the eagles as they do long-term work for the Father.

‘A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.’

Proverbs 11: 25

Pray for those working with refugees. Workers can be overrun with the burdens of the needy. Please pray for the Lord to give wisdom to know how to best help the many suffering. Pray that they will experience continuous refreshing from the Lord as they continue serving.

Praying for seekers and believers

 Duration: 15 minutes

Summary

Seekers and believers in the Middle East face many challenges on their journey of following Christ. This section includes testimonies of some people's experiences and some prayer points based on the experiences many others have.

Resources needed

A printer

Session guide

You may want to print out this resource to hand out to people in the group.

If you're in a group, ask one person to read out the testimony. Read the points individually and pray into the needs together.

Reya's Testimony

Reya* felt she wasn't talking to God when she prayed the Islamic prayers. She had a dream in which she went to a church and felt happy. Later, however, when she visited a church, she became upset because she couldn't talk to God. She made contact with our team via WhatsApp. She wanted God to reveal Himself to her and to know Christ. Four days later, Reya professed faith in Jesus.

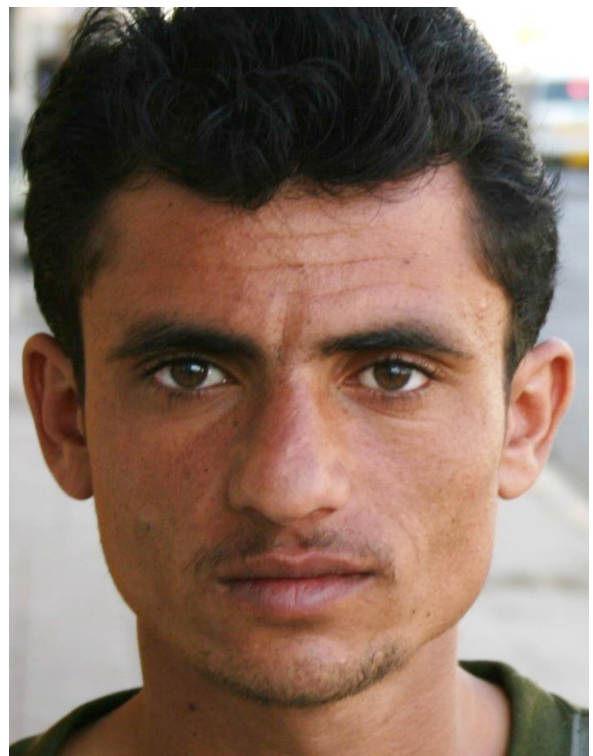


Pray for those seekers who want to talk to God but don't understand how to approach prayer now that they have accepted Christ. Pray that believers will learn how to develop a personal relationship with God through talking to Him in their own language.

Musa and Zeke's testimonies

Musa* has been looking for work. He's been living in a makeshift home on the roof of a building. He was rejected by his family, imprisoned by the authorities, then shot upon escape. He has made a good recovery and continues to grow in faith.

Elsewhere in the Middle East, **Zeke*** has been living on the streets, jobless and disowned by his family. He has also been sought out by extremists. However he says, 'No matter what happens, I will not go back to Islam'.



Pray for believers who are new in their faith. They often experience many trials, including medical, financial, work and family. Please pray for perseverance and joy as they continue to walk with the Lord.

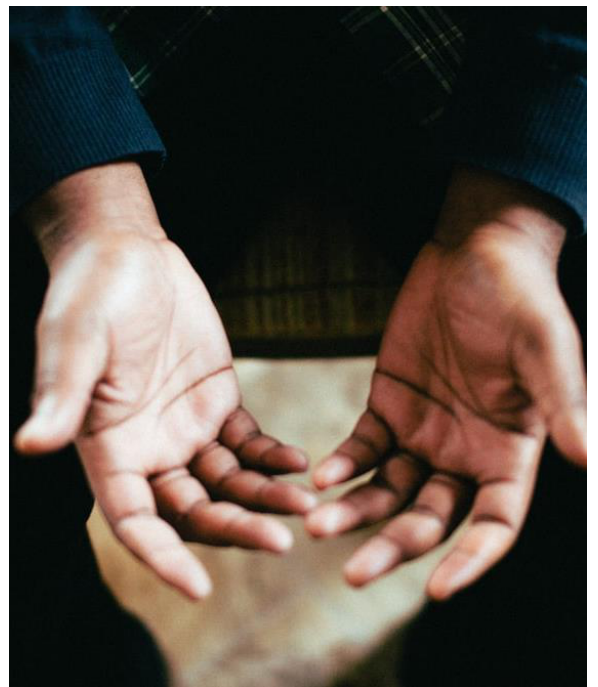
Ask the Holy Spirit to give wisdom to those who suffer physical abuse because of their faith, and are constantly being watched. Pray for the Enemy's work to be defeated and for all new believers in the Middle East to be able to meet, encourage and strengthen each other, and to grow in number.

Pray for those who hesitate to identify themselves with followers of Jesus, especially in their own localities. Pray for the love of God to drive out fear and prompt others to show grace to new believers.

Pray for those who want to follow Christ, but then withdraw because of family pressure. Pray they will understand the importance of knowing Christ and His love. Also pray that those who have made a decision to follow Christ, will understand God's word as they study it.

Hani's testimony

Hani* was fearful. He didn't know that there are many Christians living in Algeria. Our responder, Mounir*, is from a Muslim background and completely understood Hani's fears. He encouraged Hani to put his trust in Christ and said that he would be there to support him. He also assured Hani that he would find some Algerian believers to follow up with him. Hani is now following Christ.



More often than not, believers have to share the gospel discreetly. Please pray that they will be discerning. However some people ask for a Bible, and read God's Word with others who are seeking the truth. Pray they would have a real desire to know the one true God.

Pray too for new believers who are hesitant about meeting other believers from a Muslim background because of fear. Pray that there will be great sense of family and community amongst local believers.

** names have been changed*

Praying for refugees

 **Duration:** 15 minutes

Summary

This resource includes the testimony of someone who met Isa (Jesus) in a miraculous way, while also providing insight into the life of a refugee.

Session guide

This resource comprises of three sections: Faria's* story, Bible verses to reflect on and prayer points. Session Leader guidelines are provided at the beginning of each section.

- ❗ One person could read out the story below, or you could share out the seven sections within the group.

Faria's story

Magda* is an Egyptian believer from a Christian background. Last year, she and four others travelled to Turkey to share their faith with Syrian refugees.

The group went to a refugee camp, where people live in tents and makeshift homes. When she arrived, Magda didn't know which tent to visit, but she eventually chose one and entered. There she found an older lady with her daughter.

An unplanned conversation

Magda had no plan of what she was going to say, but she asked the woman for her name, which was Faria*.

'Do you know that Jesus loves you and that he can leave the 99 sheep and go after you?' Magda asked Faria.

'Once he sees you,' she continued, 'he's going to put you over his shoulder and he will walk with you to a safe place. Do you know that?'

Faria replied, 'Daughter, this is my story. This is exactly what happened to me.'

Leaving Syria

Faria said that back in Syria, she'd lost her husband and son. As a widow with only one daughter, things became very difficult for her.

Faria and her daughter, Miya*, decided to go to Turkey, but didn't know how to get there. Then they heard of a man who could smuggle them across the border for 4,000 Euros each – 8,000 Euros in total. This was a large sum and Faria didn't have it, but after some time she managed to raise it by borrowing from relatives and friends.



Faria and Miya arranged to meet with the man who could get them into

Turkey. They gave him the money and he told them to go to a location near the border at 4am on a Thursday morning.

Time to run

When Faria and Miya got to the location, there were around 50 others in the same situation. The man told everyone that they needed to walk with him for about ten minutes, and then, when the time came, they should be prepared to run as fast as they could. He said there would be planes and helicopters flying overhead, which would shoot at them if they were spotted.

Faria was an older lady who walked with a cane. When the time came to run she moved as fast as she could, but this was only a fast walk. She called out for everyone to wait. The man said, 'Faria, you have to run really, really fast. No one can wait for you.' Faria replied, 'My son, I have a cane. I cannot run fast.'

The man said that Faria must run fast. She tried but it just wasn't possible. He got very angry and took her cane, breaking it in two and throwing it as far as he could. He told Faria, 'You and your daughter will remain here because we cannot risk our lives for you.'

The strong man

Everyone began running, leaving Faria and and Miya behind. It all seemed hopeless, but then a strong man appeared. He told Faria that he would help her.

Faria was a heavy lady, but the man picked her up and threw her over his shoulder. He took Miya's hand and began to run.

The three reached the other side of the border, arriving before the rest of the group.

Who are you?

While the man was carrying her, Faria said, 'Son, who are you and what's your name? Who sent you to me?'

He answered, 'My name's Isa. Someone else will come and tell you about me.'

Once they had arrived in Turkey, Isa disappeared. The rest of the group caught up with Faria and Miya, wanting to know how they had managed to arrive before them. Faria said, 'My son, Isa, brought me here.'

Waiting at the camp

Faria and Miya made their way to a refugee camp where they waited for someone to tell them about Isa. Faria told Magda, 'You are the person who's going to tell me about Isa. Please tell me more about him.'

That day, Magda shared the gospel with Faria and Miya, and they both became believers in Christ.

** names have been changed.*

Reflect

- ❗ Before praying for refugees, maybe spend some time reflecting on these Bible verses to help you pray.

'When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God.' Leviticus 19: 33-34

'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Matthew 25: 35-36

'And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.' Hebrews 13: 16

'The entire law is summed up in a single command: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Galatians 5: 14



Pray for refugees

Remember those making perilous journeys, fleeing from conflict and persecution. Pray particularly for children travelling in extremely dangerous conditions.



Pray for the governments involved

Pray for wisdom for all those in authority who make decisions that impact refugees. Pray for leaders to tackle the root causes of the refugee crisis.



Pray that countries in crisis would know stability

Ask God to bring stability in the countries that men, women and children are fleeing from. Pray for Syria, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Somalia, Nigeria, Libya and other affected nations.



Pray for communities and organisations helping refugees

Lift up organisations, churches and communities who are working tirelessly to care for refugees. Pray they would be given wisdom and energy as they respond to families and children in great need.

*Sources: *The Sea Route to Europe and UN Refugee Agency, 24-7 Prayer: The Refugee Crisis*

Thanksgiving

 Duration: 15 minutes

Summary

This section includes some verses to reflect on as we give thanks.

Session guide

You may want to reflect on the section below or read it out in the group.

Philippians 4: 6 reads, *'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, **by prayer** and petition, **with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.***

As we spend our time asking, it is good to also spend time thanking God.

We can thank Him for answered prayers, because *'this is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of Him'* - 1 John 5: 14-15.

God loves the world. It is God's will that people come to repentance to receive everlasting life. This is the very reason why He sent His Son. So we pray, in faith, believing that many will come to faith.

Appendices: Additional resources

Appendix 1 – Session outline

Middle East Coffee Morning/Prayer Evening

Date:

Duration – Approx. 2 hrs 15 mins

Welcome	5	30 mins
Praise and worship	15	
Why we pray	10	
Break	10	
Praying for the lands of the Middle East OR Praying for the cities	15	45 mins
Praying for labourers	15	
Praying for seekers & believers	15	
Break	10	
Praying for refugees	15	40 mins
Thanksgiving	15	
Close	10	

Guidance / top tips

Praying for the land or Praying for the cities

– In your prayer time you could pray through one of the two topics if you have time restrictions. You may want to allocate 15 – 20 minutes to pray into each of these areas.

The breaks

Coffee morning - The breaks are the perfect time to have coffee (or another drink), while eating some Arabic treats. For a bit of an early morning kick, you could serve some Arabic mint tea.



Prayer evening - Maybe make the breaks shorter and start or end the evening with a small Arab meal. This might be a welcome addition for those who weren't able to have dinner. A number of supermarkets have a selection of Arab delicacies including hummus, kofta, tzatziki and falafel. You could top it off with some rice and a salad.

Appendix 2 – 5 key verses on why we pray

1. **Matthew 6: 9-14 - By His words and example, Jesus taught his disciples to pray** - not only for themselves but also for the world. (See also the account in Luke 11: 1-13).
2. **Luke 10: 1-3 - Prayer moves the heart of the church** towards the missionary heart of God (also see Mark 16: 15).
3. **Acts 12: 5-19 - Prayer creates the opportunity for impossible situations change**, it was the focused prayer of believers that led to the miraculous intervention and release of the Apostle Peter from prison.
4. **Ephesians 6: 10-20 - Prayer empowers the message**, replacing fear with fearlessness and using spiritual resources for the spiritual battle.
5. **Colossians 4: 2-4 - Prayer opens doors** in the world for the gospel to advance, equipping gospel workers and enabling clear communication of the gospel to listeners.

Appendix 3 – Country prayer points

Below you will find prayer points for **Yemen, Qatar** and **Bahrain**.

YEMEN

Summary

Yemen, the birthplace of algebra, has a long history of trade in frankincense and myrrh and now makes most of its revenue exporting oil products. Yet it is the poorest Arab nation and is currently facing the world's largest humanitarian crisis. Civilians have borne the brunt of the violence and suffering caused by the unravelling turmoil of civil war since 2012. This has left 80% of the population in need of some form of humanitarian assistance. Yemen's hunger crisis is one of the worst in the world. With only 45% of hospitals functional, medications in short supply, and little to no clean drinking water, diseases that should be preventable and treatable have claimed the lives of thousands. The nation's immense water shortage has only been made worse by the widespread use of the country's most popular narcotic, qat, which demands approximately 40% of the nation's supply. Terrorist and militant groups like Al-Qaeda, have taken advantage of the chaos and human suffering to gain territory and momentum.

On top of this, Yemen remains one of the least evangelised nations on earth. 99% of the population is Muslim. The gruesome treatment of Yemen's small



body of believers has put this nation in the top ten for worst persecution of Christians.



Prayer points

- Pray for the gospel to go forth in power despite current legal restrictions
- Pray for freedom from the narcotic qat* that holds 80% of Yemeni adults captive
- Pray for the desperate economic situation to ignite a longing for lasting hope and security

*Qat is an addictive plant.

QATAR

Summary

The State of Qatar, unlike many other Middle Eastern nations, has successfully avoided the unrest and violence of the Arab Spring. The peninsula nation bordering the Persian Gulf and Saudi Arabia was part of the Turkish-Ottoman Empire until 1918, and then operated under British protection until 1971. In 2007, Qatar was considered to have the highest per capita income in the world and the second lowest unemployment rate.

The Sunni Muslim nation is home to many South and Southeast Asians, Egyptians, Palestinians, Lebanese, Syrians, and Iranians, who comprise 90% of Qatar's workforce. In fact, Qatar has the highest rate of population growth in the world.

Nearly 80% of the population is Muslim, and it is forbidden to criticise the ruling family or Islam or to share the gospel. Many expatriates have been forced to leave the country as a result of speaking about Christ. Immigrant Christians are allowed to practise their faith, though they are considered second-hand citizens. It is also difficult for Christians to gather



together, as government policy strictly regulates the meetings. Even so, land has been offered up to Christian communities to build the first churches in Qatar since the spread of Islam.



Prayer points

- Pray for open doors for Muslims to hear and receive the gospel
- Pray for a recognition of spiritual need amid such material wealth
- Pray for the birth of an indigenous Church focused on sharing the gospel with all Qataris

BAHRAIN

Summary

Like its Middle Eastern neighbours, the desert island nation of Bahrain finds its identity in its Arab-Islamic roots. But, upon entering this Arabian Gulf state, one will immediately notice a more relaxed and moderate atmosphere. Women's faces are often unveiled, and churches for expatriate Christians are relatively common. With much exposure to other cultures' influences (the labour force is 59% foreign), Bahrain has become more ethnically and religiously diverse.

The supreme political authority comes from the King. Great tensions and even civil unrest have resulted from the conflict between the Sunni Muslim ruling family and Shia Muslim majority. Protests directed at the Bahraini government erupted in 2011 as Arabs throughout the region spoke out against their leaders and plight.

With a greater sense of freedom than other gulf nations, Bahrain has opened its doors to some Christian influence. However, it is illegal to proselytise, and local Christians struggle to freely practise their faith. But with religious freedom for expatriate believers, one will find quite a few churches within



these borders. As 83.2% of the population claim to follow Islam and 9.8% claim Christianity (predominantly foreigners), Bahrain still remains desperately in need of the gospel.



Prayer points

- Pray for courage for Bahraini believers to be lights in the darkness despite daily hostility
- Pray for justice and support for foreign workers who endure abuse, harassment, poor pay, and long hours
- Pray for increased opportunities for visiting Saudis and Kuwaitis to encounter the Gospel



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