

Family Guide

India



“Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession.”

— Psalm 2:8, New American Standard Bible 1995



A One-Year Prayer ADVENTURE!

Using this handy family guide, we will travel to a faraway country every month, learn about its people and culture and pray for them. We will focus on a different least-reached country in every guide. There are 12 family guides covering 12 countries this year—one for every month.

Why do we call these countries “least reached”? Many of the people in these countries have never heard about Jesus, or it’s difficult for them to hear about Him. Even though you won’t get on a plane to each country, when you pray, you join our adventure—our mission to make a difference in the lives of the people in each country.

The best part is you’ll always know what to pray for. This family guide gives you a prayer request for every day of the week. Moms, dads and kids everywhere will be praying for the same thing together too. Let’s get started by learning about this month’s country.

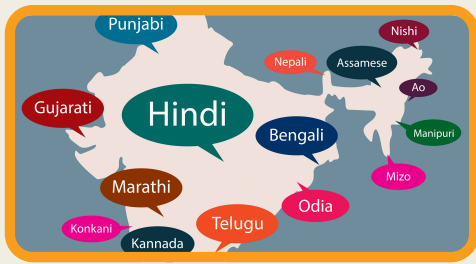
WELCOME TO India!



If you are standing atop the great Himalayan Mountains in India, you'd be surrounded by even more mountains, as well as deserts, plains, plateaus, sea coasts and islands beyond the waters—all of these are a part of India! It's a very large mass of land with the world's highest population.



Fun Facts About India



India has 22 official languages, with Hindi and English the most common. But many more languages are spoken, and at least 268 of these Indian languages have gospel tools (films and other materials) available to them.



India declared they were independent from British rule in 1947. Since then, the country has become the world's largest democracy, a government that gives its citizens a say in how their country is run.



Built in the Indian city of Agra back in the 1600's, the Taj Mahal is a stunningly beautiful building made out of a special white marble stone. It is one of the Seven Wonders of the World.



In India, people have the right to choose whatever church and religion they want to follow. The vast majority of people are Hindu, likely because that was the religion of their parents, grandparents, etc. A few are Muslim, and a very few are Christian.



India produces about 70% of the world's spices. Cooks and chefs everywhere use spices to add flavor to the food they prepare.

Ready to pray for the people of India?

The easiest way to define prayer is that it's simply talking with God. Like a normal conversation, it includes both speaking and listening. This month we are looking at a way of praying that follows the letters in the word PRAY. This prayer method follows the Lord's Prayer from Matthew 6:9-13.

- **Pause:** To pray well, we must stop our activities and focus on the Lord. God tells us in Psalm 46:10 to, "Be still and know that I am God" (International Children's Bible). When we quiet our hearts and minds, we can talk and listen to Him more clearly.
- **Rejoice:** Take a few minutes to celebrate the Lord—who He is and what makes Him unique and special. Jesus is the only religious leader who is holy and perfect. The Lord's Prayer starts with this truth, saying, "Our Father in heaven, holy be Your name."
- **Ask:** The Lord's prayer continues by giving us these three specific requests to ask: "Your kingdom will come, what You want will be done..." and "Give us the food we need for each day." In other words, we ask for God's kingdom to come to earth. We ask for His will to be done instead of our own. We ask God to provide for our daily needs, whatever they may be. Asking involves both praying for ourselves and our needs and praying for others.
- **Yield:** Yielding means allowing God to change our plans to match His plans for us (the Lord's Prayer says it like this: "What You want will be done"). It involves confessing our sins ("forgive the sins we have done"), and receiving His forgiveness. We also yield the choices we make to match the choices He wants for us, so that we won't give in to sin.

Prayer does not always have to follow all the steps in the PRAY method. While it is good to set aside extra time to focus on the Lord, each step can also be practiced on its own. This family guide offers opportunities every day for you to join us in the Ask step as we pray specifically for the people in India.

Your Prayer Partner,

Lucinda

Please email me, or have a parent email me, if you have any questions or want to share what you are learning about prayer. I'd love to hear from you! prayer@jesusfilm.org



WEEK 1 REQUESTS



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“There is no one holy like the Lord.
There is no God but You.
There is no Rock like our God.”

— 1 Samuel 2:2, ICB



Day 1

Let's pray for God's people, that they listen well to the Holy Spirit who lives inside each one of them. He can make it easy to walk in His ways, to love and respect all others in God's family. That way, we can work together doing the work that God wants us to do.

Day 2

There are over 2,000 people groups in India who speak different languages, and many do not have a Bible in their heart language. Pray for more people to join in doing translation work and for God to supply what's needed. May many Indian people read God's powerful words and receive Jesus' gift of salvation.

Day 3

Mumbai (pronounced "moom-bye") is a large and important city in India. Like most big cities everywhere, it has big problems—for example, many of its people are very poor. Pray that all Christian churches in Mumbai would work together to help solve the city's problems.

Day 4

Jesus' followers have God's book, the Bible, to help us change our ways of thinking, behaving and living to please Him. God calls pastors and Christian leaders to do important work, giving them the special responsibility of being the very best examples of His followers. He knows everyone will be watching and listening to them. Pray that God prepares pastors and Christian leaders in all the ways they need to be great examples of thinking, behaving and living.

Day 5

Radio, TV, the internet, printed newspapers and books are all different types of media, or ways that people pass along information to other people. Your school may have a media center where books and computers are kept. When we share information through media, it's important that the information we share is truthful. It can be harmful if it is not. Pray that the people of India receive truthful information through their media, and that many Christians will become media missionaries!

Day 6

"[Jesus] said to them, 'There are a great many people to harvest. But there are only a few workers to harvest them. God owns the harvest. Pray to God that He will send more workers to help gather His harvest.'"
— Luke 10:2, ICB

This Bible verse says there are many people ready right now to say "yes" to Jesus' invitation to trust in Him! More Christians and Christian workers are needed who will take the message of Jesus to those who are ready in India. Let's go!

Day 7

You might think being 25 years old is pretty old. But it's actually pretty young when you consider how long people live. In India, people live for about 70 years. Think about this: more than half of all the people in India are younger than 25 years old. That means there are a lot of kids, but not a lot of adults to help guide them and train them while they're growing up. Pray these young people will hear the message of Jesus and open their hearts to His love. May they feel they belong and have purpose being in God's family. May they trust God more each day and grow to become mighty Christian leaders.

Week 1 Activity: Word Search

E N G L I S H W W Q L T I Q N
I G A C I P B J K Q P E M D U
D M T P N B K Z Y B K W M L V
K Q O H I M A L A Y A N R M O
I B P U B Q L Z F H T W Y E B
V A I G N F N C M I A I P E O
D K D L S T N D G N J D A U B
R S R I L P A O D D M Q U X L
O S D B A I M I R I A L S H Q
P P W I A M O A N A H Z E O N
G I Q T I J B N J S A J A N I
C C P C M M U D P P L N S G N
Z E I A O H M R D H L I K A D
B S I R C L A N G U A G E S I
Q W R E J O I C E R D Q E R A

WORD LIST

ASK

BILLION

ENGLISH

HIMALAYAN

HINDI

INDIA

LANGUAGES

MOUNTAINS

PAUSE

REJOICE

SPICES

TAJ MAHAL

WEEK 2 REQUESTS



“The Lord is close to everyone who prays to Him, to all who truly pray to Him.”

– Psalm 145:18, ICB



□ Day 8

Some Christians in India are treated unkindly because they are followers of Jesus, especially if they talk to others about Him. Ask God to protect Christians, Christian workers and their families, and for Him to grant them wisdom to know who to talk to and when.

□ Day 9

Many people in India work hard their whole lives to follow their religion. They believe they will be rewarded for their hard work after they die. Pray they will come to know the love of the only true God. His son Jesus will accept them exactly as they are. They can receive His gift of salvation.

□ Day 10

Many young people in India struggle with emotional and mental health. Pray that groups that work with young people would join together with the Church to help those who are struggling. May God use and bless these efforts to help young people find hope and purpose in Jesus.

□ Day 11

Pray that every student in India has a chance to hear the gospel, invite Jesus to be their Savior, and learn how to walk in His ways.

□ Day 12

Christians who own businesses have a special responsibility to do their work as if they're doing business with Jesus. Of course, they'd want to do the best job possible, to be fair and truthful and honest. It pleases Jesus when we all do our very best in everything we do. Pray that Christians in India would be the best they can be and do the best they can do, so they can point others to Jesus through their good work.

□ Day 13

Being a leader is an important job, and leading others can be hard work. Pray for safety for India's leaders and for God to help them lead in a way that promotes peace and well-being for all.

“You should pray for kings and for all who have authority. Pray for the leaders so that we can have quiet and peaceful lives—lives full of worship and respect for God.”
– 1 Timothy 2:2, ICB

□ Day 14

Sadly, some children in India have become enslaved by people who harm them. Pray that God will rescue and restore these children to a healthy life with a caring family. May they know God loves them and wants them to be in His family, too.

Week 2 Activity: Trace John 14:16 Hindi

यीशु ने उस से कहा,
मार्ग और सच्चाई
और जीवन मैं ही हूँ;
बिना मेरे द्वारा कोई
पिता के पास नहीं
पहुंच सकता।

यूहन्ना 14:6 Hindi Bible

Jesus answered, "I am the way. And I am the truth and the life. The only way to the Father is through me."

– John 14:6, ICB

WEEK 3 REQUESTS



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“We pray that the Lord will make your love grow more and more for each other and for all people. We pray that you will love others as we love you and that your hearts will be made strong...”

– 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13, ICB



□ Day 15

Did you know that God can use filmmakers to bring the hope of Jesus to the people of India? By showing the story of Jesus on film, Indians can discover how He lived while on earth, how He healed the lame to walk and the blind to see, and how much He loves them. Pray God will show filmmakers just the right things to include in their films about Jesus so that many Indians will come to know Him.

□ Day 16

One state in India named Uttar Pradesh (pronounced “oo-tar proo-daysh”) has a huge population. Sadly, it is a difficult place for the gospel to spread. Pray that God would open the eyes and hearts of these people whom He loves, so that they would put their trust in Him.

□ Day 17

Do you know the name of the capital city of your country? New Delhi (pronounced similarly to “deli”) is India’s capital city, where many of the country’s leaders gather to meet. Pray that leaders will lead their people well, being fair and just toward everyone, and caring for the poor and disabled people.

□ Day 18

Cities in India are busy places where many people live and where they can find jobs, stores, activities, and churches! Pray for every church in each city to reach out to all the people who haven’t yet heard the message of Jesus.

□ Day 19

Movies and videos have a powerful way of changing what we think or do. That’s why it’s important for us to find out if a movie we want to watch has a story or message that helps the good in us grow stronger. Pray that India’s movie-makers will make movies that encourage good and not cause harm.

□ Day 20

Even after we tell Jesus that we want to accept His gift of forgiveness and follow Him with our lives, we might disobey Him. God’s Word tells us that we should confess our sins to Him, which just means telling God what we did wrong. Let’s pray that we, and Christians everywhere, will quickly tell God when we realize we did something wrong.

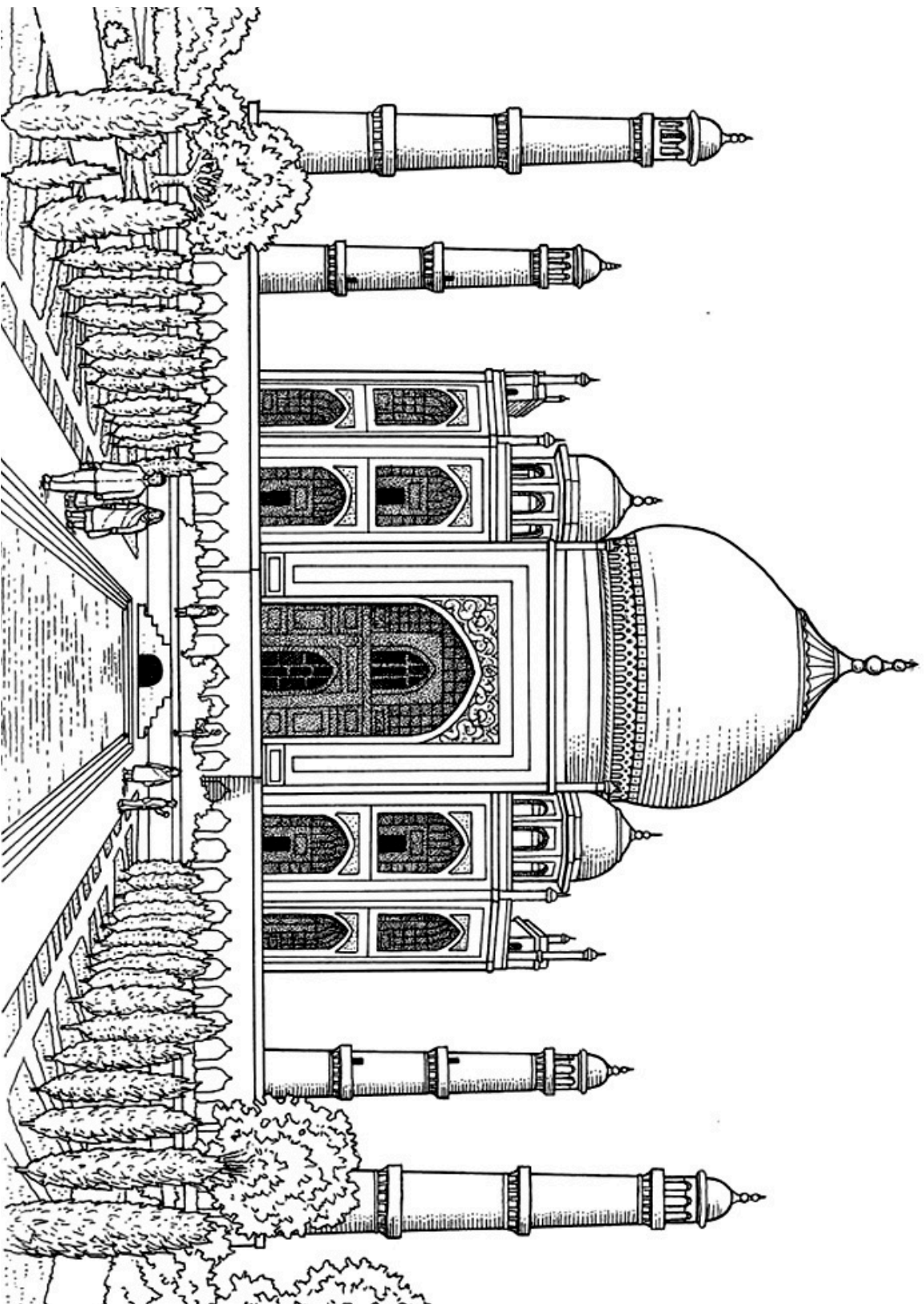
“But if we confess our sins, He will forgive our sins. We can trust God. He does what is right. He will make us clean from all the wrongs we have done.”

– 1 John 1:9, ICB

□ Day 21

School-aged kids in India are just like kids everywhere—they usually do well when they have a teacher they can trust and who cares about them. Ask God to help teachers be the best example they can be so students can learn well. And pray for kids who don’t have the chance to go to school. They need an opportunity to learn too.

Week 3 Activity: Taj Mahal Coloring Page



WEEK 4 REQUESTS



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“Patience and encouragement come from God. And I pray that God will help you all agree with each other the way Christ Jesus wants. Then you will all be joined together, and you will give glory to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

– Romans 15:5-6, ICB



Day 22

Thank the Lord for the Christian groups that work with students and leaders in India and for the Christian groups that do good by working with the poor, sick, homeless and helpless people. Pray that churches would partner with and help these groups.

Day 27

Let’s pray that people in India who don’t yet know Jesus hear about Him, get to know Him and follow Him soon.

“All people everywhere, follow Me and be saved. I am God. There is no other God.”
– Isaiah 45:22, ICB

Day 24

Pray that Christians and Christian workers in India find ways to use technology to meet people who don’t know Jesus yet, and to teach and train new believers to grow their faith.

Day 25

Pray that God would protect the doctors, nurses and helpers in India who take care of the sick. Pray that hospitals would be open to all people, even poor people, so that they may receive help and healing. Pray also for doctors, nurses and helpers to turn to God and seek His help.

Day 26

The city of Chennai in India has been a really important city for thousands of years—almost since the time when Jesus lived on Earth. But sadly, many people in Chennai seem to have little interest in knowing about Jesus. They don’t know how much He loves them! Pray their hearts will open to receive the message of Jesus. May Christian leaders form churches in their neighborhoods where their faith can grow along with Christian friendships.

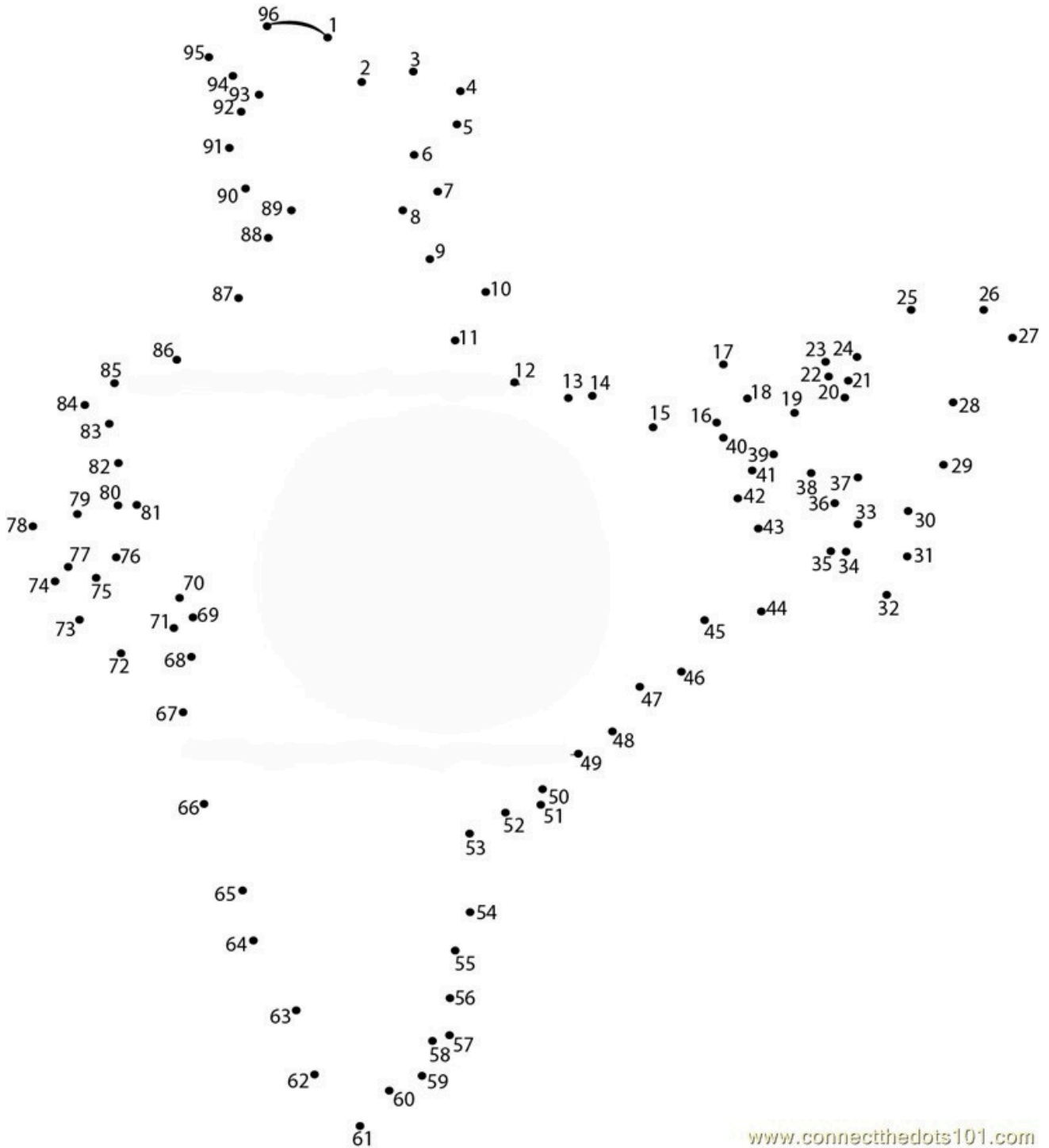
Day 23

God gives everyone in His family the special job of showing His love to people who are hurting, and helping however we can. When we show compassion, it means we feel concerned for someone who is suffering. Pray God’s people in India will show compassion and kindness toward others. Is there someone you can show compassion to today?

Day 28

Even though Indian law says its citizens may choose to worship any god they want to worship, sometimes Christians are treated harshly by neighbors and even by their own families. Whenever new Christians are rejected by their families, pray that God would surround them with a new Christian “family.” May God’s Spirit help those in India to know He is the one true God.

Week 4 Activity: India Map Dot to Dot



WEEK 5 REQUESTS



□ Day 29

Jesus wants us to love other people, no matter what they believe. That's what He does. Pray for people in India to be curious about Jesus, and for Jesus to show Himself to them in their dreams. We want them to know that Jesus is the one true God.

□ Day 30

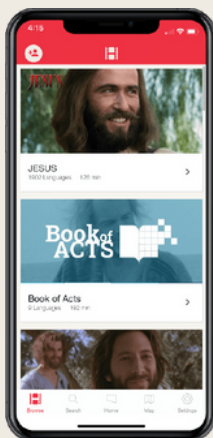
Kolkata is a very big, populated city where less than one percent of the people follow Jesus—that's not very many. Pray for more Christian workers to rise up and for Christians to find new, creative ways to share God's love with those who don't know Him.

□ Day 31

Lord Jesus, we thank You for giving us a chance to pray for India each day this month. We believe You will continue Your work there until everyone has heard clearly about Jesus and been invited to follow Him. Someday we'll see how You answered our prayers. May heaven be filled with Indian people who started to follow Jesus in part due to our prayers this month. We give you all honor and praise.

Resources

- ▶ Joshua Project has a tremendous amount of information about every country. This link will take you to information about India.
joshuaproject.net/countries/IN
- ▶ Prayercast has great prayer videos.
<https://prayercast.com/prayer-topic/india>
- ▶ A great way to help someone learn more about Jesus is to share the *JESUS* film in their heart language. We have the film in over 2,000 languages on our website.
jesusfilm.org/watch/jesus.html/english
- ▶ We also have multiple other films and short films available. jesusfilm.org/watch
- ▶ For more Jesus Film Project® prayer resources—including access to each month’s family prayer guide—visit the prayer page on the Jesus Film Project website.
jesusfilm.org/pray



The Jesus Film Project app is completely free and available on iOS and Android devices. Get the app now and start watching and sharing a huge library of Jesus-centered films.



This family guide is part of For the Least Reached: A Year of Prayer—a one-year prayer initiative created by Jesus Film Project. It's a great way for families to pray together for countries and people in the world who still don't know love, hope and forgiveness in Jesus. A new family guide is available every month.

Learn more at jesusfilm.org/pray.



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