

Family Guide

Iran



“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 Iran!



Iran is one of the oldest countries in the world and is an important country in the world today. It has expansive deserts, like the Dasht-e Kavir, and tall mountain ranges like the Alborz Mountains. Tehran is its busy, exciting capital, and is home to the remarkable Golestan Palace, the oldest in the city. Majestic, snow-capped mountains line the city's skyline.

Iran was known as Persia during biblical times. With its long history, Iran has influenced most countries of the world with its many forms of art and science discoveries.



Iran is the second largest country in the Middle East. It shares borders with seven other countries. Our prayer is that Iranians will accept the love of Jesus and that every Iranian will have a healthy church that teaches biblical truth near them.

Fun Facts About Iran



Have you ever seen a cat with fur so fluffy that it looks like a cloud? Persian cats are like that! They originated in Iran. Kings and queens used to keep them as pets. Nowadays, they are so popular that families all over the world have Persian cats.



Before refrigerators were invented, Iranians built huge buildings called *yakhchāls*. Shaped like cones, *yakhchāls* had thick walls made of mud bricks. In the winter, locals would carry massive chunks of ice from nearby mountains and store them in these buildings to preserve food during scorching hot summers. Many centuries later, one of the first in-home refrigerators was a wooden ice box with a large chunk of ice placed inside, similar to a *yakhchāl*!



Have you ever sent someone a letter or a card? It was probably delivered by a truck, train or plane. But long before these delivery services existed, ancient Iranians found a way to send letters through expert horsemen. They would ride horses that took turns going large distances, like in a relay race. They rode day and night, through rain and snow and heat. Sending a letter 2,000 years ago was a big deal!



The Dasht-e Kavir of Iran, also called the Great Salt Desert, is one of the largest salt deserts in the world. In photos taken by satellites in the sky, it looks dry as a bone, but it was once covered by an ancient ocean. This ocean eventually dried up, leaving a thick, rocky crust of salt on the surface. Here on Earth, it looks more like the surface of Mars than a desert.



Did you know that outdoor lights keep us from seeing the stars well at night? Ask a parent to take you outside on a clear night to show you how man-made light affects our view of the sky. There's a place in the desert of Iran, far away from cities, called the Starry Sky Reserve with no man-made lights so you can see millions of stars.

Ready to pray for the people of Iran?

In this guide, you'll see a prayer request for each day of the month. It's really cool that we can all pray together to ask God to do amazing things in Iran, helping more people learn about Jesus.

Our big prayer is that God will change people's hearts, just like He did for the Israelites. In the book of Ezekiel in the Bible, God says He will give people a new heart that listens to Him instead of a hard, stubborn one. Then they will obey His laws and keep them. They will be His people, and He will be their God (from Ezekiel 11:19-20, International Children's Bible).

Prayer is just talking to God and listening to what He might say back. Remember, in Jeremiah, God promised to listen to the Israelites when they called out to Him, and He does that for us today. Isn't it awesome to think that the God who made everything, from the sun and stars and sea creatures, actually listens when we talk to Him? Even if 8 billion people pray at once, He hears each one, and He cares.

God has given every Jesus-follower the Holy Spirit as a helper to help us pray, even when we're not sure what to say. Plus, Jesus is there, helping to share our prayers with God. So, you're never praying alone.

This prayer guide will help you focus your prayers on places like Iran, where sharing the message of Jesus can be tough or even dangerous. We've kept the requests pretty general to keep God's workers in Iran safe, but God knows exactly who and what each prayer is for.

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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“Lord, all the nations You have made will come and worship You. They will honor You.”

– Psalm 86:9, ICB



Day 1

If you could gather all Iranians and separate them into groups of 100 people, only one person in each group would say he knows about Jesus. The other 99 would know nothing about Him! There are a lot of people in Iran who haven't heard about Jesus' great love yet. Ask God to make a way for all people in Iran to hear about His love for them.

Day 2

Every Sunday tens of thousands of Iranians meet in secret to worship God. Please pray that all of Iran will discover Jesus, and that believers can praise His name out in the open!

Day 3

Lord Jesus, shine Your light in the hearts of those who don't know You, so that they will come to know You—the way, the truth, and the life.

Day 4

Pray that God's Holy Spirit will fall upon all of Iran. May every man, woman and child discover that *God so loves them* that He gave His son Jesus to die for their sins, who then rose to live forever! By trusting Jesus, they will spend eternity with Him!

Day 5

People don't always keep the promises they make. Pray that Iranians realize that the Lord honors every promise He makes, and that their hearts can trust Him.

Day 6

Today we are praying this verse for every Christian in Iran.

“Lord, teach me what You want me to do. And I will live by Your truth. Teach me to respect You completely.” – Psalm 86:11, ICB

When praying Scripture, you can add names or whole groups of people into the verse. Like this: “Lord, teach Christians in Iran what You want them to do. May they live by Your truth. Teach them to respect You completely.” This is another great verse to pray for yourself, your family and your friends.

Day 7

Pray for Christians in Iran to grow in their love for Jesus. Pray they will learn how to lead other Christians in becoming more like Jesus too.

Week 1 Activity: Trace John 14:6 in Farsi

عیسی به او گفت:
«من راه و راستی و
حیات هستم، هیچ کس
جز به واسطه من، نزد
پدر نمی آید.
یوحنا 6:14 nmv

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 2 REQUESTS



“Then all the people of the world will know the Lord is the only true God.”

– 1 Kings 8:60, ICB



Day 8

Pray that the Lord will protect the nation of Iran from all evil. May people make good choices and desire to live in a way that follows God’s truth.

Day 9

Many people in Iran are so troubled that they harm themselves and their families by making bad choices. Pray that they ask Jesus for help. He can bring them joy and hope even when their lives are hard.

Day 10

Some adults in Iran don’t have a job, which they need to pay for food and other important things. Please ask the Lord to help them find jobs. Pray that they discover that the Good Shepherd, Jesus, can meet their greatest needs.

Day 11

Ask God to help Iranians receive a fair amount of money for their work so they can provide for their families.

Day 12

Pray that whole families throughout Iran experience Jesus’ love and forgiveness.

Day 13

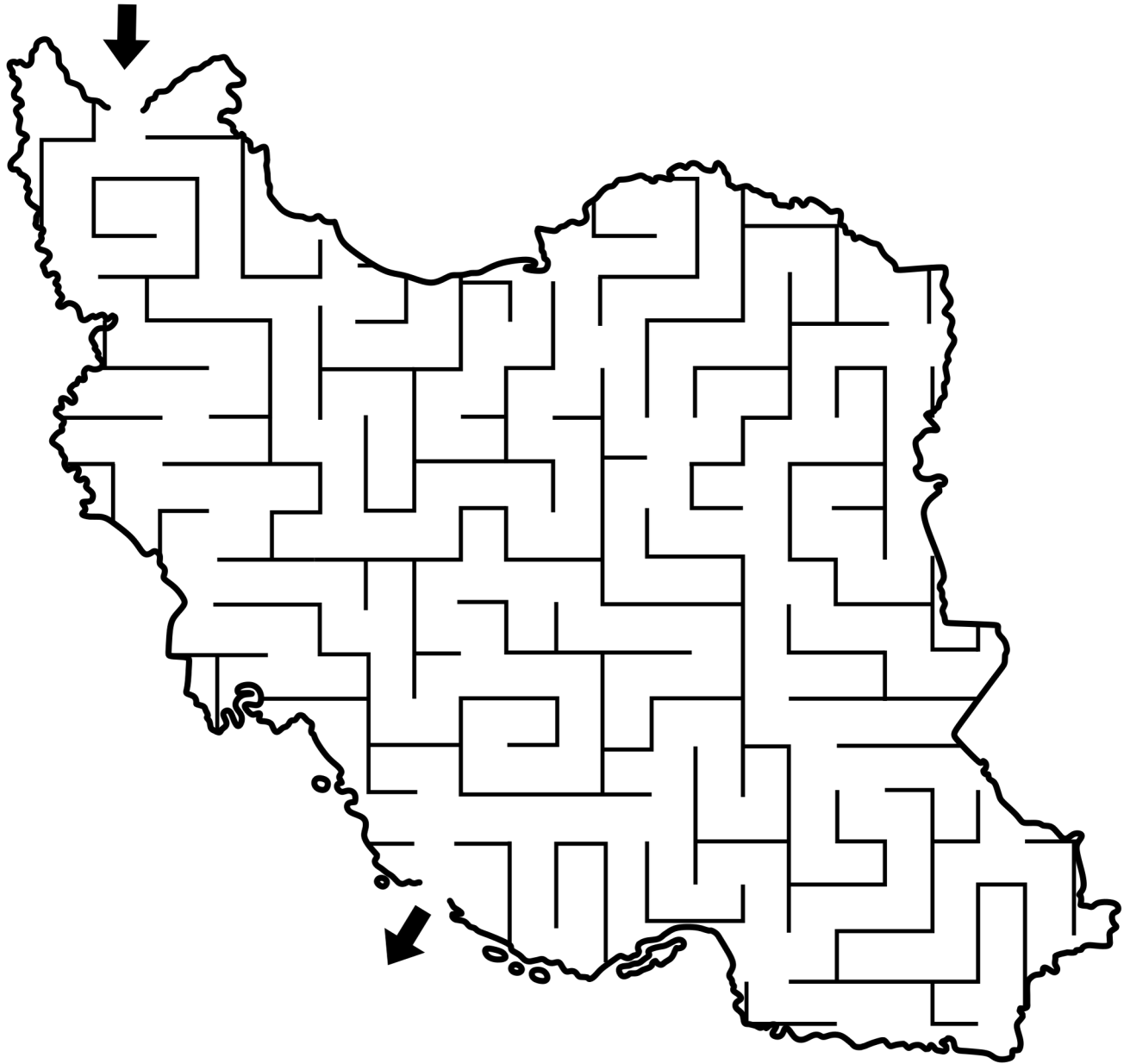
In the verse below, the writer Paul clearly encourages us to pray for everyone. That includes our family, our friends, our neighbors, our classmates, the people in our city, state, nation and all the people of Iran. Does this seem impossible? It doesn’t have to be. Make a plan to pray for one group each day.

“First, I tell you to pray for all people. Ask God for the things people need, and be thankful to Him. ... God wants all people to be saved. And He wants everyone to know the truth.” – 1 Timothy 2:1, 4, ICB

Day 14

Ask the Lord to help the government provide a safe living environment for all its citizens.

Week 2 Activity: Iran Maze



WEEK 3 REQUESTS



"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper. He will give you this Helper to be with you forever. The Helper is the Spirit of truth. ... He lives with you and He will be in you."

— John 14:16-17, ICB



Day 15

Because of the internet, the good news of Jesus can reach people in faraway places. Pray for the internet to connect every village so people everywhere can know Jesus.

Day 16

Pray for students in Iran to be able to learn about Jesus at school. Ask God to help each student discover who Jesus is and choose to follow Him.

Day 17

Many Iranians are upset about things happening in their country. They have restrictions that make many of their lives difficult. Pray that Iranians will put their trust in God and accept His comfort and strength. May God make Himself known to them, and may they find His love irresistible.

Day 18

Ask Jesus, who is the light of the world, to shine brightly in the hearts of the people living in Iran so that they choose to follow Him.

Day 19

Have you ever ridden on a bumpy dirt road or one that is full of mud? That makes travel very difficult. Some roads are like that in Iran. Ask the Lord for better roads so that God's message of hope can spread throughout Iran!

Day 20

Join us in praying this prayer written by Paul. In the Bible, he was praying for the Christians in a city called Ephesus. Today, we are praying for Christians in the country of Iran.

"I always pray to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ—to the glorious Father. I pray that He will give you a spirit that will make you wise in the knowledge of God—the knowledge that He has shown you."

— Ephesians 1:17, ICB

Day 21

Please pray that God will meet the needs of the disabled and sick and that these people will be cared for. Pray they desire to know the Lord who loves them and laid down His life for them.

Week 3 Activity: Persian Cat Coloring Page



WEEK 4 REQUESTS



*“God, have mercy on us and bless us.
Show Your kindness to us.
Then the world will learn Your ways.
All nations will learn that You can save.”*

— Psalm 67:1-2, ICB



Day 22

Iran is having major water pollution problems. Ask the Lord to give wisdom to its leaders so that they can fix this and other big problems which greatly affect the health of the Iranian people. Ask Jesus to draw people to Himself, the only source of living water.

Day 23

Pray that many people in Iran will see gospel messages on social media and want Jesus in their lives.

Day 24

God may call Christians to move to another country, especially one where there are few believers, so they can tell others about Jesus. Pray that those taking this step will quickly learn the new language so they can clearly talk with their neighbors in their heart language.

Day 25

Please pray for safe living and working conditions for all people in Iran. Pray that people would see God’s goodness through His provision of their needs.

Day 26

Pray that the leaders of Iran would respect the Lord and His ways. Ask God to help them understand they need His wisdom and strength to lead their nation well.

Day 27

Join us in praying that all Iranian Christians will read the Bible to learn what God wants them to do and then obey His teaching every day.

“So you must fully obey the Lord our God. You must follow all His laws and commands. You must continue to obey in the future as you do now.”
— 1 Kings 8:61, ICB

Day 28

Many Iranians travel to nearby countries during holidays and vacation times and get to hear the good news of Jesus from Christians while they are traveling. Pray that the truth they hear will cause them to believe in Him.

Week 4 Activity: Iran Word Search

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

WORD LIST

ALBORZ
MOUNTAINS
DASHTE KAVIR
EZEKIEL
FARSI

GOLESTAN
GREAT SALT
DESERT
IRANIAN
JEREMIAH

JESUS FOLLOWER
LEAST REACHED
PERSIA
PERSIAN CAT

PRAYER
STARGAZING
TEHRAN
YAKHCHALS

WEEK 5 REQUESTS



□ Day 29

A team of Christians is working on a new short film that will make clear something Iranians mistakenly believe about Jesus, and that keeps many from accepting Him. Pray that Iranians will see this film and choose to put their faith in Jesus.

□ Day 30

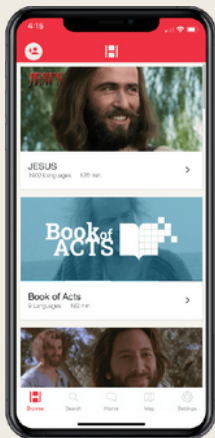
Those in Iran who are poor often end up owing money to people who treat them unfairly. May they find help from trustworthy and fair sources. May they see God as the giver of all good things and trust Him to faithfully provide.

□ Day 31

Lord Jesus, we thank You for giving us a chance to pray for Iran 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 Iranian 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 Iran.
joshuaproject.net/countries/IR
- ▶ Prayercast has great prayer videos.
prayercast.com/iran
- ▶ 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
- ▶ 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 the love, hope and forgiveness found in Jesus. A new family guide is available every month.

Learn more at jesusfilm.org/pray.



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