

Ramadan

The Muslim Month of Fasting

Prayer Guide



Interesting Fact: Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar. It is during this month that Muslims observe the Fast of Ramadan. Dates for Ramadan 2013 are July 9 – August 7.

The name Ramadan is derived from the Arabic word ramida or ar-ramad, denoting intense scorching heat and dryness, especially the ground. From the same word there is ramdaa, meaning 'sunbaked sand' and the famous proverb Kal Mustajeer minar ramadaa binnar – to jump out of the frying pan into the fire. Some say it is so called because Ramadan scorches out the sins with good deeds, as the sun burns the ground.

Muslims fast during this holy month from the moment when it first starts to get light until sunset. Muslims fast as an act of faith and worship towards Allah, seeking to suppress their desires and increase their spiritual piety. Fasting together as a worldwide community – Ummah – affirms the brotherhood and equality of man before Allah.

The last ten days of Ramadan are considered highly blessed, especially the 27th night which is also called the 'Night of Power', or the 'Night of Destiny'. It is believed that on this night the prophet Muhammad received the first revelation of the Quran. For many Muslims, this period is marked by a heightened spiritual intensity and they may spend these nights praying and reciting the Quran.

After 30 days of fasting, the end of the month of Ramadan is observed with a day of celebration, called Eid-ul-Fitr. On this day, Muslims gather in one place to offer a prayer of thanks, share a meal together and wait patiently for the next year.



Pray:

As you encounter or experience these daily facets of life, pray for the 500,000,000 Muslims of South Asia who need to encounter Jesus in a real way!

- **Waking Moments:** Pray that Muslims' waking thoughts will be of God. Ask the Holy Spirit to implant thoughts every day of Ramadan that point to the truth and reality of God's Word, the Bible.
- **Work Day:** Pray that as Muslims carry out their work for the day they will encounter Christians whose words, manner, lifestyle, and peace-radiating faces will create a hunger to know what makes them different. Pray they will understand that the difference is found only through a personal relationship with Jesus.
- **Media:** Ask God to reveal Himself through television, radio, music, literature, internet, art, phone, etc. that Muslims utilize during their daily lives. Pray that Christian radio broadcasts will be clearly received across vast areas; that evangelical TV programs will be aired multiple times; that praise and worship CDs and tapes will be widely distributed; that internet sites will not crash and downloads will work properly.
- **Hunger Pangs:** Pray that the hunger pangs Muslims experience throughout the days of Ramadan will be echoed with spiritual hunger pangs – an insatiable appetite to read God's Word, to know Him personally, to know spiritual truth.
- **Good Deeds:** Muslims believe that their eternity in paradise is based on the number of good deeds they perform in this life, thus observing Ramadan gives them great merit. Pray that with every good deed they attempt, the Holy Spirit will convict them of the futility of their efforts. Ask God to enable them to understand the only way to know with certainty is to believe that Jesus paid the price for their sins, and only God's grace is sufficient for eternal life in His presence.
- **Prayers:** Devout Muslims pray five times a day. As you pray today before meals, or during your quiet time, thank God for answering your prayers for Muslims. Ask God to call out intercessory warriors who will faithfully stand in the gap on behalf of Muslims in South Asia and around the world.

Interesting Fact: Throughout the day Muslims are encouraged to go out of their way to help the needy, both financially and emotionally. Some believe that a reward earned during this month is multiplied 70 times or more. For this reason, Ramadan is also known as the month of charity and generosity.



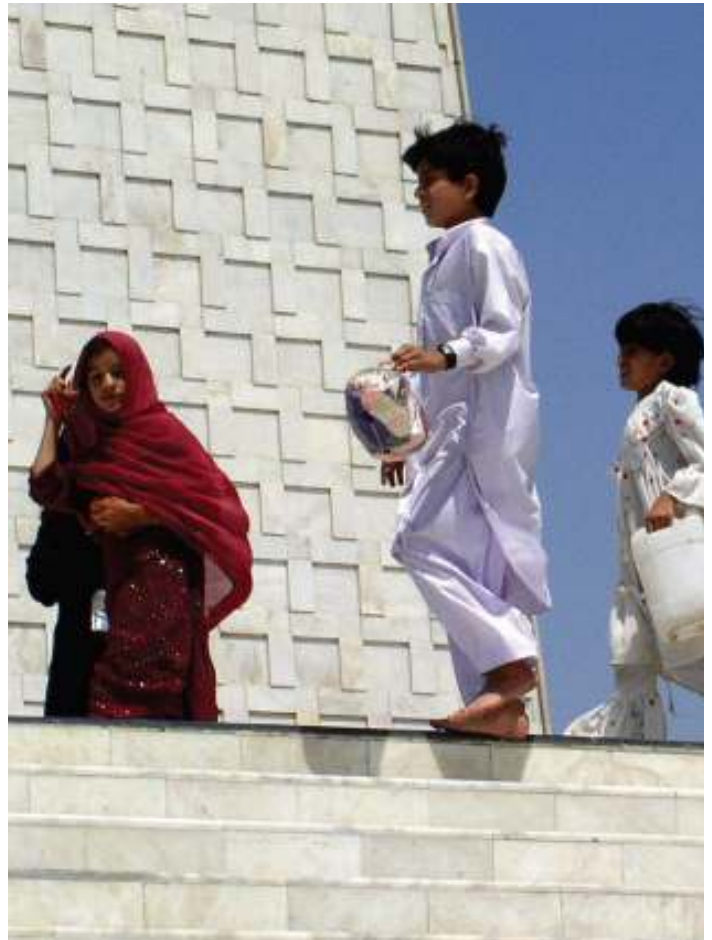
Pray

- **Bedtime:** When you tuck your children (or grandchildren, or spouse, or yourself) into bed tonight, ask them to join you in praying that Muslim children will have the opportunity to know Jesus as their Savior. Pray that Muslim parents will allow their children to explore Christianity as they grow older.
- **Dropping Off to Sleep:** As you end your day and prepare for sleep, let your closing thoughts be prayers that Muslims, too, will think of God as they go to sleep. Pray that their dreams will be revelations of Jesus Christ. Pray that those dreams will shake their world, introducing undeniable truths.

Don't let your prayers stop there! Continue listening for God's prompts to prayer throughout the month of Ramadan. How can a ringing phone remind you to pray? A child's giggle? The smell of a barbecue grill? The wail of a siren? How will God speak to you?

And don't let the prayers stop today! Consider using this guide, or the principle of "real-time" prayers, for a set amount of time during each of the 30 days of Ramadan. Prayerfully ask God if you should dedicate one day a week, or one meal a week, to pray and fast for Muslims this month.

Finally, pray this prayer: "Almighty God, You are the Holy One, the All-Knowing, All-Seeing, All-Powerful God of the universe! How blessed we are to be Your children. Today we lift before You the Muslims of South Asia, asking that they have an encounter with You during Ramadan that leads them one step closer to knowing Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. In His precious name, we pray... Amen."




Thank you for praying for the Muslims of South Asia.
"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." John 17:3 (NASB)


Resources: For videos, stories and other resources exploring how to love and pray for Muslims, visit:
lovingmuslims.com and 30-days.net

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