

How should we use this booklet?



Over the coming weeks, you may pray and fast in a variety of ways. Some days five minutes may be all that God will ask from some in this prayer effort. However, participants will sometimes be guided to pray for much longer periods. You can use this booklet to pray during your own prayer times, or join with others to pray together. We encourage you to find creative ways to involve as many people as possible in this prayer focus. Jesus gave special promises of blessing for Christians who pray and agree as a group (Mt. 18:20).

Please use the Bible as much as possible in prayer. We have included various Bible references throughout the booklet. It would be good to meditate on these texts and speak them out in prayer. Proclaim them before God; ask Him to inspire you. This will build your faith and God can give you new insights for prayer based on His Word.

You could organize some weekly or twice weekly meetings over the 30 day period with your church, your youth group, cell groups, or children's groups. Have others join with you in a special meal using the prayer topic for that day. You could find out all you can about that particular culture, including food and dress, music, etc.

It is helpful if one person is chosen as the leader / facilitator of the group for that time of prayer. This person can give direction and cohesion to the group. It is helpful if the group focuses its prayers for one subject area at a time, rather than constantly changing focus. Each person should wait before moving on to a different topic, allowing each one to pray their prayers over the current subject area (1 Cor. 14:40). God is creative, and has made us in His image, so we can expect creative ideas and prayers as we seek Him. The Holy Spirit will lead you in prayer (Rom. 8:26).

August 22, 2009

Day 1

Our attitudes

Unbelief, Belief and Love

Scriptures to meditate and proclaim in prayer: Mt. 19:26, Jeremiah 32:27, Romans 12:1-2

It is often said that Muslims are hard to reach with the Gospel. For religious, cultural and spiritual reasons this is often true. However it is not impossible. The Bible tells us that nothing is impossible for God (Mt. 19:26). Do I agree with God that nothing is too hard for Him?

Faith is important, but do I also love Muslims? What is my most profound reaction when I meet them, when I see them on television? How would I react if a man in Islamic clothing came to my church? How would I react if a new believer from a Muslim background wanted to marry into my family? Would I be willing to give a thousand dollars so someone could proclaim the Gospel among Muslims? Would I be willing to sit and eat with a Muslim in a crowded restaurant? Have I been involved in criticizing them without knowing them? Am I fearful of Muslims? Is my main attitude toward them one of mistrust? Am I able to do as Jesus says, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself"? Is this my desire, is this my goal?

► *Be honest with God. Pray as He directs you. (Use the scriptures cited above.) If it seems appropriate, pray for yourself and / or other believers around the world who may also be struggling with their attitudes, ideas and actions toward Muslims.*



The word "Islam" simply means submission to God, and a Muslim is one who follows the laws and practices of Islam. Muslims say Islam has its origins with Adam. According to them Abraham, Moses, David, Jonah and Jesus all taught and practised versions of Islam.



A believer's testimony and some significant questions about Islam and Muslims

The author of the following paragraph loves Muslims very much.

“I want you to know that I have personally survived two attempts by Muslim extremist crowds to lynch me. Once in 1986 because I was a Westerner and once because of my witness concerning Jesus Christ in 1989. I have received more death threats from Muslim extremists than I can count. I have been arrested, I have had my home searched, and my Bibles have been confiscated. The police have interrogated me about my faith and witness. I have close friends who have been tortured. I think I can honestly say that I have earned the right to say that I am not naïve about Muslim extremism. But I want to ask: What does our Christian faith say about the attitude we should have as believers toward Islam and Muslims in the world today?”

“I have received more death threats from Muslim extremists than I can count.”

Joseph, the author of the previous paragraph, asks other questions: What image springs to the mind of most Christians when they think about Muslims? The Twin Towers? Osama bin Laden? Are we called to defend “Christian civilization” or are we willing to lay down our lives in love for Muslims and

share with them the Good News of Jesus? Are we interested in self preservation or self-giving for the Gospel? Joseph believes that the Christian faith is primarily costly discipleship to Jesus Christ the Crucified. What do we believe? (See 1 Peter 3:15, Mark 8:34-35, Mt. 5:39 and 44).*

In the words of Floyd McClung there is a life-giving way to think and act concerning Islam and Muslims:

Radical Prayer – Pray with love and faith for Muslims to experience the mercy and grace of God.

Persevering Faith – Believe God to raise up committed, trained believers to take God’s message to Muslims and establish new groups of believers.

Extreme Sacrifice – The militancy of Muslims is best responded to by sacrificial love and a willingness to suffer and even die to make Jesus known.

Rather than responding in fear or disdain toward Muslims, McClung believes we should respond in the opposite spirit, in an attitude of Christ-like love. The “30 Days” movement shares this belief.

** Taken from the book “From Seed to Fruit,” pages 318-323.*

See resources page