

Family Guide

March 2022
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 (NASB 1995)

Welcome to Iran

March finds us heading to the Middle East to pray for Iran during our third month of *For the Least Reached: A Year of Prayer*. We started 2022 in Indonesia and just prayed for China last month.

Did you know that Iran—historically known as Persia—has its own solar calendar, and that the current year is 1400 (rather than 2022)? As they turn to 1401 on the Persian New Year later this month (with a two-week celebration called Nowruz), Iranians wish for prosperity and welcome the future. Let's band together to welcome a move of God in this land and blessings for its people!

Fun facts about Iran.

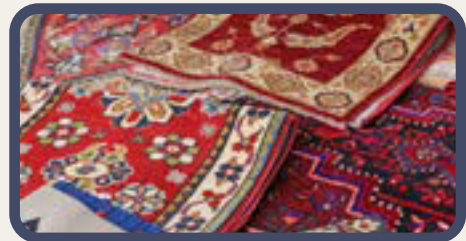
Iran is bordered by seven countries. It is almost three times the size of France and slightly smaller than Alaska.



There are approximately 12 Asiatic cheetahs left in the world, all of which live in Iran.



Iranians have woven Persian carpets by hand for over 2,000 years. These beautiful carpets have very intricate patterns. They're considered a luxury item around the world.



While much of the Middle East speaks Arabic, Iranians speak Persian, also known as Farsi.

لأنه هكذا أحب الله العالم حتى بذل ابنه الوحيد لكي لا يهلك كل من يؤمن به بل تكون له الحياة الأبدية.

Arabic, John 3:16

زیرا خدا جهان را اینقدر محبت نمود که پسر یگانه خود را داد تا هر که بر او ایمان آورد، هلاک نگردد بلکه حیات جاودانی یابد.

Farsi, John 3:16

www.wordproject.org

The Persian Longhair cat is native to Iran. It has a round face, as well as thick fur that protects it from the cold.



Ready to pray for the people of Iran?

God's Word (the Bible) makes it very clear that He wants every person to know and follow Jesus. We pray that everyone, everywhere has a chance to learn about Jesus in a language they can understand.

Let's pray that people in Iran who don't yet know Jesus 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, International Children's Bible

As people who already know Jesus, we can make a difference. We can help the people of Iran hear about Jesus by spending time with the Lord God in prayer. Remember that prayer is simply talking and listening to God. We can pray anytime and anywhere, even with our eyes open. But closing our eyes so we're not distracted by what's around us is usually helpful.

Have you and your family found a regular time to pray for the country of the month each day? It really helps to have a set time for the family to fully focus on praying for one request each day. Give it a shot. Encourage your family to make this a goal for the month of March.

When we remember that God—who is all powerful and in complete control—eagerly listens to our prayers, that encourages us to pray more. And He doesn't just listen, He responds to our prayers. Wow!

Your 2022 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, or if you'd like to get last month's family packet. I'd love to hear from you!
prayer@jesusfilm.org



01

Week 1: March 1-7, 2022

“People everywhere will remember and will turn to the Lord. All the families of the nations will worship Him. This is because the Lord is King. He rules the nations.”

— Psalm 22:27-28, ICB



Week 1 Prayers



> Many people in Iran are so discouraged that they harm themselves and their family by making bad choices. Pray that they ask Jesus for help. He can bring them joy and hope even when their life is hard.

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

> People from a country called Afghanistan, which is just across the border from Iran, are going to Iran to find a better and more peaceful life. Pray that they find the kind of peace only Jesus can give.

> Taking time to thank God is an important part of prayer. We show God how grateful we are when we spend time telling Him what we are thankful for.

Let's pray that the Christians in Iran would be thankful to God as this verse describes:

“Thank the Lord because He is good. His love continues forever. ... You are my God, and I will thank You. You are my God, and I will praise Your greatness. Thank the Lord because He is good. His love continues forever.” — Psalm 118:1, 28-29, ICB

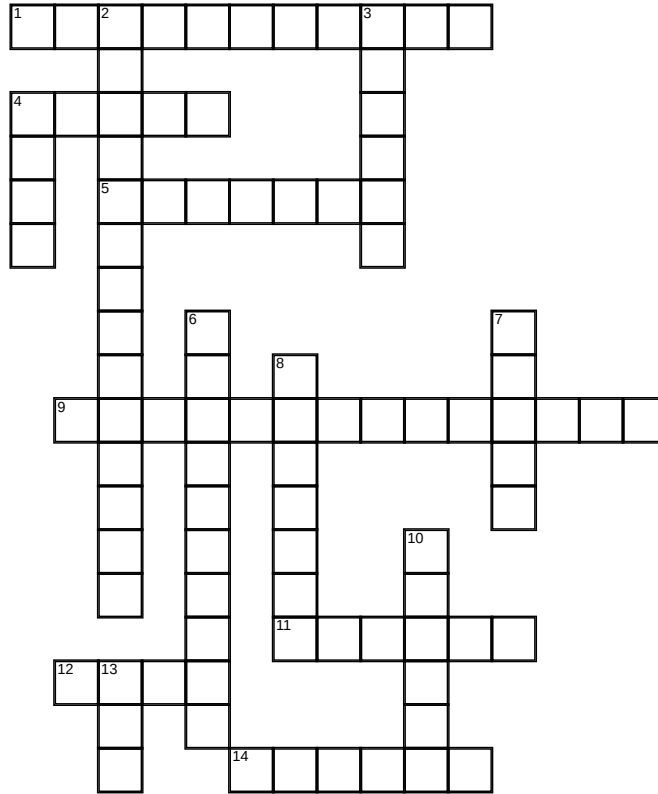
> Pray that the Lord will protect the nation from all evil. May people make good choices and desire to live in a way that follows God's truth.

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

> 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.

Week 1 Activity: Crossword

Iran Crossword



Across

- 1 Body of water to the North
- 4 Majority religion of this country
- 5 Iran has one of the highest populations of these displaced people
- 9 A famous export of this country
- 11 Persian New Year
- 12 Sport that started in Iran in the 6th century B.C., to train horses
- 14 Capital city

Down

- 2 The type of calendar used in Iran
- 3 Very popular sport
- 4 Name for this month's country
- 6 Iran is a big producer of this nut like seed
- 7 Official Language
- 8 World's costliest spice by weight
- 10 Another name for this country
- 13 Iran is a leading producer of this product

WORD LIST:

CASPIAN_SEA
FARSI
IRAN
ISLAM

NOWRUZ
OIL
PERSIA
PERSIAN_CARPET

PISTACHIOS
POLO
REFUGEE
SAFFRON

SOCCER
SOLAR_CALENDAR
TEHRAN

02

Week 2: March 8-14, 2022

"... He (Jesus) was also given glory and royal power. All peoples, nations and men who spoke every language will serve Him. His rule will last forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed."

— Daniel 7:14, ICB



Week 2 Prayers



> 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.

> Let's pray that people in Iran who don't yet know Jesus hear about Jesus, 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

> Every Sunday millions 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!

> 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.

> One town in Iran hasn't recorded a single birth for the past 18 years! Please ask the Lord to establish many healthy marriages and families in this area and in the rest of the country.

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

> Ask the Lord to work through the government to provide a safe living environment for all its citizens.

Week 2 Activity: Coloring Page



03

Week 3: March 15-21, 2022

*“He is the one who makes the mountains.
He creates the wind.
He makes His thoughts known to man.
He changes the dawn into darkness.
He walks over the mountains of the earth.
His name is the Lord God of heaven’s armies.”*

— Amos 4:13, ICB



Week 3 Prayers



➤ During Persian New Year celebrations, which take place from March 21 to April 4, Christians in Iran plan to show friends and loved ones God’s love. Please ask the Lord to guide these acts of love and lead and protect Iranian Christians as they reach out to people who might not know God.

➤ Iran faces major water pollution problems. Ask the Lord for wisdom to 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.

➤ Even after we tell Jesus that we want Him to have first place in our lives and accept His gift of forgiveness, we might disobey Him. His Word tells us what to do when that happens. Let’s pray that we, and the Iranian Christians, 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

➤ 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.

➤ Ask the Lord to use Christian movies to speak to the hearts of many women and give them a desire to know Him!

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

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

Week 3 Activity: Ash-e Reshteh Recipe

Ash-e Reshteh (Persian Legume Soup, perfect for Persian New Year)

1/3 cup dry chickpeas (garbanzo beans)
1/3 cup dry kidney beans
2 tablespoons olive oil, divided, or as needed
1 large red onion, thinly sliced
1 tablespoon dried mint
2 large yellow onions, thinly sliced
6 cloves garlic, or to taste, minced
2 teaspoons ground turmeric
6 cups vegetable stock
3 cups packed chopped fresh parsley
2 cups packed chopped fresh cilantro
2 cups packed chopped fresh mint
3 bunches scallions, chopped (green parts only)
1/2 cup dry lentils
1/2 pound linguine pasta
1 pound fresh spinach, chopped
1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
salt and fresh ground pepper to taste
1 cup Greek yogurt



Photo: saffronandherbs.com

Directions

Step 1 Place the chickpeas and kidney beans into a large container and cover with several inches of cool water; let stand 8 hours to overnight.

Step 2 Heat 1 tablespoon olive oil in a skillet over medium heat; stir in red onion. Cook and stir until onion has turned translucent, about 5 minutes. Reduce heat to low; continue cooking and stirring until onion is tender and golden brown, about 40 minutes more. Stir in dried mint; cook until onions become dark brown and crisp, about 15 minutes. Set aside for garnish.

Step 3 Heat remaining olive oil in a stock pot; stir in yellow onions. Cook and stir until onion has turned translucent, about 5 minutes. Add garlic and stir until fragrant, about 1 minute. Stir in chickpeas, kidney beans, and turmeric; toss to combine. Stir in vegetable stock; simmer soup for 1 hour.

Step 4 Stir parsley, cilantro, mint, scallions, and lentils into soup; simmer 30 minutes more. Break linguine into 3 sections, stir into soup, and cook at a low boil until noodles are soft, 8 to 10 minutes.

Step 5 Stir 1/2 of the spinach to the soup until wilted, about 1 minute. Stir in remaining spinach and simmer for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Step 6 Stir flour with 3 tablespoons of the soup liquid together in a small bowl until smooth. Stir flour mixture back into soup. Continue to simmer soup over low heat, stirring frequently, until thickened, about 30 minutes.

Step 7 Serve soup with yogurt and fried red onions.

Cook's Notes: Save time by frying the onions while the soup is simmering. It is important to stir gently and often toward the end of the cooking process, or soup will stick to the bottom of the pot. Add more water or stock as needed to prevent sticking.

From: <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/245476/ash-e-reshteh-persian-legume-soup/>

“Then I looked, and there was a great number of people. There were so many people that no one could count them. They were from every nation, tribe, people, and language of the earth”

— Revelation 7:9, ICB



Week 4 Prayers



- > 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.
- > From March 21 through April 4, Christians in a neighboring country would like to share the good news of Jesus with Iranian visitors who will vacation there. Please pray Christians will find it easy to talk about God with these new friends.
- > Please pray that the needs of the disabled and sick would be met and that they would be cared for. Pray they would desire to know the Lord who loves them and laid down His life for them.
- > Let’s pray for the people of Iran to see who Jesus is and place their trust in Him. Pray as they grow in their faith they come to learn how much He loves them. *“And I pray that you and all God’s holy people will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ’s love. I pray that you can understand how wide and how long and how high and how deep that love is.”* —Ephesians 3:18, ICB
- > 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.
- > 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 broadly and rapidly throughout Iran!
- > COVID-19 is still having a significant impact on this nation. Pray for the timely supply of vaccines, protection over the medical staff and for people’s hearts to be especially open to hearing the good news during the pandemic.

Week 4 Activity: Word Search

Iran Word Search

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

WORD LIST:

CASPIANSEA

NOWRUZ

PISTACHIOS

SOCCER

FARSI

OIL

POLO

TEHRAN

IRAN

PERSIA

REFUGEE

WOVENCARPET

ISLAM

PERSIANGULF

SAFFRON

Week 5 Prayers



Pray for the Christ-followers in Iran to trust God to protect them from all harm.

“So no weapon that is used against you will defeat you. You will show that those who speak against you are wrong. These are the good things my servants receive. Their victory comes from me,” says the Lord.”
—Isaiah 54:17, ICB

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

> Lord Jesus, we thank you for giving us a chance to pray for Iran each day in March. 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 Iranians 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 Iran.
<https://joshuaproject.net/countries/IR>

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 1,900 languages on our website.
<https://www.jesusfilm.org/watch/jesus.html/english.html>

We also have multiple other films and short films available.
<https://www.jesusfilm.org/watch.html>

For more Jesus Film Project prayer resources—including access to each month’s Family Prayer Guide—point your phone’s camera app here:



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.

