

Family Guide

October 2022
India

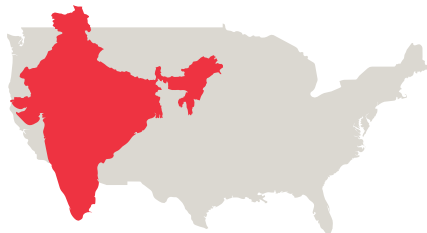


Welcome to India!

During October, we will be praying for India. This month in India, people throughout the country will celebrate Diwali, a five-day Festival of Lights, which starts on October 24 this year. Diwali is all about new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness. May Jesus reveal to many Indian people that He is the light of the world during this season!



The country of India is roughly one third of the size of the United States, but over 1.4 billion people live in India, compared to 332 million people in the United States.



Fun facts about India.

The number zero was invented by an Indian named Aryabhata, one of the world's greatest mathematician-astronomers, around 700 years ago.



Over 20,000 artisans built the Taj Mahal, India's most famous landmark. The iconic palace took 20 years to build and was completed in 1647—that's 129 years before the United States was founded!



India has experienced amazing population growth. In 1995, 967 million people called India home. This year, India has over 1.4 billion living there!



Because nearly 80% of Indians are Hindu, cows are considered a holy animal. Cows have a protected status and freely roam around city streets.



“परमेश्वर को जगत से इतना प्रेम था कि उसने अपने एकमात्र पुत्र को दे दिया, ताकि हर वह आदमी जो उसमें विश्वास रखता है, नष्ट न हो जाये बल्कि उसे अनन्त जीवन मिल जाये।”

John 3:16 in Hindi, one of the 22 official languages in India.

Ready to pray for the people of India?

India is a special country for me. My husband and I lived there almost 30 years ago. We treasure the lifelong friends we made.

Each month the For the Least Reached family guides contain a prayer request for each day of the month. These are specific requests that will impact those in the country of the month with the good news of Jesus or in other ways for their good. It's great to have a set time each day to pray for the listed request. But this is not the only way you can pray for each country. For example, God might bring India to mind throughout the day. It's okay if you don't remember one of the specific requests; simply tell God that you want the people of India to know Him. God wants us to communicate with Him continually each day.

Another way to help you pray is to think about any friends or neighbors that have an Indian heritage. Ask them what it was like to live in or visit India. Use the Jesus Film Project® app to show them the *JESUS* film or a short film in their family's original language. See the links at the end of this family guide to get the app.

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. I'd love to hear from you! prayer@jesusfilm.org



01

Week 1: October 1-7, 2022

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

— Psalm 145:18, International Children’s Bible



Week 1 Prayers



> India is a unique and beautiful country with a huge number of people and 2,500 different people groups, and many have their own special language. For hundreds of years Christian missionaries have made Jesus known in India and helped meet some really big needs. Yet the people’s hearts are closed to Jesus. Pray the love of Jesus would become known to every child and adult in India so that they open their hearts to receive Him.

> Being a leader is an important job, and leading others can be a lot of 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

> 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 in the media, it’s important that the information shared is truthful. It can be harmful and misleading if it is not. Pray that the people of India receive truthful information through their media, and that many Christians will become media missionaries!

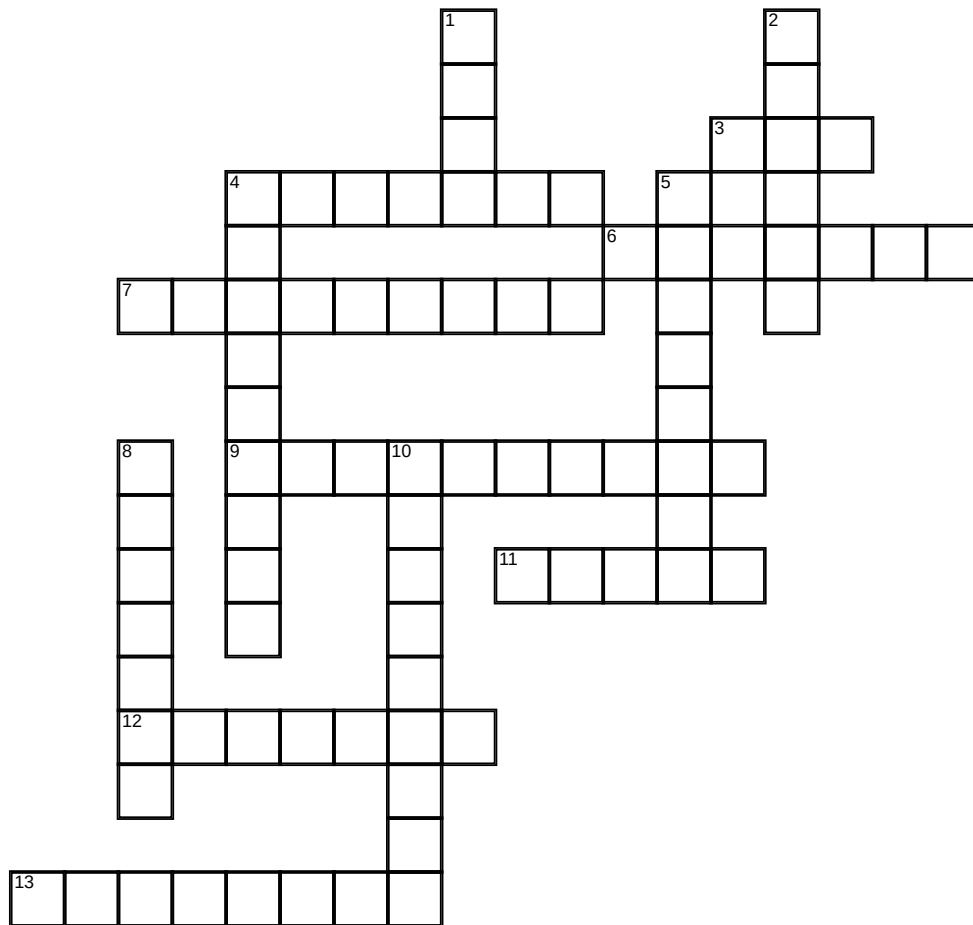
> Pray that every student in India has a chance to hear the gospel and invite Jesus to be their Savior, and learn how to walk in His ways.

> 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 be a light that shines for Jesus.

> 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 wisdom to know who to talk to and when.

> The people of India work hard their whole lives to follow their religion. They believe they will be rewarded for these things 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 free gift of salvation.

Week 1 Activity: India Crossword



Across

- 3 A protected and sacred animal in India
- 4 This gem was first mined in India
- 6 The common Indian greeting, pronounced NAH-moss-stay
- 7 Large mountain range along India's northern border
- 9 A very large gray-colored animal found in India
- 11 A large striped animal in India
- 12 A popular sport in India
- 13 A common rice and meat dish

Down

- 1 The number invented by an Indian named Aryabhata
- 2 The disciple of Jesus who was the first Christian missionary to India
- 4 Type of government system in India
- 5 The world's largest ___ forest is in the Bay of Bengal of India
- 8 India's national bird
- 10 Capital in India

WORD LIST:

BIRIYANI	DIAMOND	NEW_DELHI	TIGER
COW	HIMALAYAS	PEACOCK	ZERO
CRICKET	MANGROVE	RHINOCEROS	
DEMOCRACY	NAMASTE	THOMAS	

02

Week 2: October 8-14, 2022

*“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



Week 2 Prayers



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

> People who become 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 important work, giving them the special responsibility of being the very best examples of these things. 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.

> *“[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 receive Him into their hearts! More Christians and Christian workers are needed who will take the message of Jesus to those who are ready in India. Let's go!

> 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 of the church.

> Many young people in India struggle with emotional issues. Pray that groups that work with young people would join hands with the Church to help them with their struggles. May God bless these steps to help young people find hope and purpose in Jesus.

> Out of 2,500 different people groups in India speaking different languages, 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 people of India read God's powerful words and receive Jesus' gift of salvation.

> 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.

Week 2 Activity: Peacock Coloring Page



03

Week 3: October 15–21, 2022

“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



Week 3 Prayers



➤ 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 want to partner with and help these groups.

➤ 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 show compassion and kindness toward others. Is there someone you can show compassion to today?

➤ 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.

➤ 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.

➤ 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, the people of 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 churches be formed in their neighborhood where their faith can grow and Christian friendships be made.

➤ Let’s pray that people in India 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

➤ 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 3 Activity: India Word Search

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

WORD LIST:

BIRIYANI

DIAMOND

NEWDELHI

TIGER

COWS

HIMALAYAS

PEACOCK

ZERO

CRICKET

MANGROVE

RHINOCEROS

DEMOCRACY

NAMASTE

THOMAS

04

Week 4: October 22–28, 2022

“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



Week 4 Prayers



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

> 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.

> One state in India named Uttar Pradesh (pronounced “oo-tar proo-daysh”) has a huge population of people. 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.

> 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.

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

> 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 to grow stronger. Pray that India’s movie-makers would make movies that encourage good and not cause harm.

> Do you know the name of the capital city of your country? 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.

Week 4 Activity: Recipe

Indian Chapati

Chapati is a type of Indian flat bread. It is a popular staple food in India and made of really simple ingredients: wheat flour, salt and water.

Prep: 15 mins Rest time: 1 hour Cook: 1 minute

Ingredients

2 cups whole wheat flour or drum-wheat “Atta”
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup water
2 tablespoons wheat flour, for rolling and dusting

Directions

Step 1

Sieve the flour, add salt to it and mix well. Place the flour in a large bowl and add 3/4 cup of the water. Stir gently with fingers in a circular motion until the flour starts to gather. Add 1-2 tablespoons more flour if the dough looks too sticky. Add more water if it looks too dry and firm.

Step 2

Knead the flour until it becomes soft and pliable and doesn't stick to your fingers. You can put a little oil on your hand while kneading the dough to help with kneading. Cover the dough with plastic wrap and let the dough rest for at least one hour, at room temperature. You may also store the dough in the refrigerator. Just allow it to reach room temperature before using it.

Step 3

Once ready to make chapatis, heat the griddle over medium-high heat. Divide the dough into 10-12 equal-sized dough balls. Working with one dough ball at a time, roll the dough ball in the flour and flatten it a bit with your hands. Transfer the flattened ball to a clean, flat surface, and roll it with a rolling pin into a 6-7 inch disc. If the dough sticks to the surface, dust the surface with more flour.

Step 4

Place the chapati on the hot griddle and cook for 30 seconds or until tiny golden dots appear on the surface, then flip over and cook the other side. Flip over again and soon the chapati will start to puff up. Use a folded kitchen towel and press gently on the puffy chapati to push the air to the flattened part of the chapati. The whole bread should puff up into a round ball.

Step 5

Transfer the cooked chapatis to a serving platter. You may baste it with a little butter or ghee. Serve immediately.



From: <https://rasamalaysia.com/chapati-recipe/>

05

Week 5: October 29–31, 2022

Week 5 Prayers



> 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.

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

> Lord, we praise You for the opportunity to pray for India every day in October. We know that You love the people of India and desire that none in India should perish but that all should come to the saving knowledge of You. We look forward to the day when we see millions of Indians in heaven even as a result of this month of prayer. We love You and give You all the glory and honor. In Jesus' name we pray.

Resources

The Joshua Project has a tremendous amount of information about every country. This link will take you to India.

<https://joshuaproject.net/countries/IN>

PrayerCast has great prayer videos.

<https://www.prayercast.com/india.html>

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>

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