

For the Least Reached

Prayer Guide



“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

Thank you for praying with us!



Welcome to the Iran Prayer Guide. This monthly prayer guide forms part of **For the Least Reached: A Year of Prayer**, our one-year prayer initiative.

Each month we unite with the body of Christ in prayer for one least-reached country around the world. Many of the people in these countries have never heard the message of the gospel, or it's difficult for them to learn about Jesus or worship Him.

Learn more at jesusfilm.org/pray.



Nearly
75%

of all the world's unreached people—a whopping 3.6 billion people—live in the 12 countries that we will pray for this year.

WELCOME TO Iran!



Iran, also known as The Islamic Republic of Iran, has a rich history and plays a key role in today's global affairs. The country is a land of stark contrasts. It plays host to the deserts of Dasht-e Kavir, the peaks of the Alborz Mountains and the immense capital city of Tehran.

As one of the world's oldest civilizations, Iran and its influence spans millennia, playing an important role in the history of art, science and politics around the world. Today it plays a vital role in the Middle East's oil economy.



Iran is the second largest country in the Middle East, where it shares its borders with seven other countries. We pray that Iranians will accept the love of Jesus and that everyone will have a healthy church near them.

Did you know?

- ▶ The Persian cat, known for its long, luxurious fur and distinctive face, originated in Iran. These cats were once considered royal pets when explorers brought them to Europe in the 17th century. They've become one of the most popular cat breeds worldwide, admired for their calm and gentle nature.
- ▶ Iran is home to one of the oldest postal systems in the world. Couriers used the Royal Road, a network of roads so efficient that it inspired the saying, "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." This is the unofficial motto of the United States Postal Service.
- ▶ Before refrigeration, Persians built *yakhchāls*, ancient ice houses, to store ice through the hot summers. These structures, with their thick walls and ingenious cooling design, preserved ice from winter into the summer months, showcasing early refrigeration techniques.
- ▶ The Dasht-e Kavir, or Great Salt Desert, covers a vast area of Iran and is one of the largest salt deserts in the world. Its unique landscape includes salt flats, sand dunes, and optical illusions called mirages, making it a surreal place that feels like another planet.
- ▶ In parts of Iran, especially in the desert, the night sky is so clear you can see millions of stars. There is even a place called the "Starry Sky Reserve" where light pollution is almost zero, making it perfect for star-gazing.



Praying for Iran

Throughout this guide, you'll find a prayer request for each day of the month. What a privilege to join together through common prayer, united in our desire to see God move in Iran for His glory and for the furtherance of the gospel.

Our overarching prayer is that God will change hearts, just like He did for the people of Israel. He promised in the book of Ezekiel: “I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. Then they will follow My decrees and be careful to keep My laws. They will be My people, and I will be their God” (Ezekiel 11:19-20, New International Version).

I want to remind you that in its most basic form, prayer is simply talking and listening to God. In Jeremiah 29:12, God tells the Israelites to call on Him and He will listen. He's the same God for us today! He listens to you when you go to Him in prayer. Have you taken time lately to ponder what that means? The God who created the sun, the stars, the oceans, the sea creatures, and the incredibly complex human body actually hears us when we pray. That 8 billion people could be calling on Him at the same time isn't hard to believe. It's that He listens to each one. And not only does He listen, He cares.

God has given every Christ-follower the Holy Spirit to help intercede for all (Romans 8:26). Even when we don't know what to pray, the Spirit prays for us. To top it off, Jesus sits at God's right hand, presenting our requests to His Father (Romans 8:34, 1 John 2:1, and Hebrews 7:25). You are not alone as you pray.

Our hope is that these prayer guides help direct your prayers for people in countries outside your sphere—countries like Iran, where it can be hard to reach people with the story of Jesus. Many in these countries are not friendly toward the gospel message, which makes the work of missionaries and believers difficult and even dangerous. We've made the prayer requests in this guide general in nature to protect their information and keep them safe. But that does not limit the impact of our prayers. God knows the exact need behind each request.

Thank you for praying with us.



Week 1



*"All the nations You have made will come
and worship before You, Lord; they will
bring glory to Your name."*

—Psalm 86:9, NIV

Week 1 Requests



Day 1

There are 84 unreached people groups in Iran and they make up 99.6% of the country's population. Ask God to make a way for all people in Iran to hear about His love for them and for Christians to plant churches within reach of every person.

Day 2

Every Sunday tens of thousands of Iranians meet discreetly to worship the Lord. Please pray that all of Iran will discover God's plan of salvation so that all believers can openly praise His name!

Day 3

Major government projects regularly face delays of years or even decades. Pray that Iranians would realize that the Lord honors His every promise, and for their hearts to ultimately trust in Him instead of man.

Day 4

Praise God for the recently completed meetings where pastors and leaders were equipped to train and inspire others. Pray that God will raise up ministry apprentices (like Paul's apprentice Timothy; see 2 Timothy 2:2) for each of these pastors to pour into, and that they will plant many new churches.

Day 5

Due to disillusionment with the majority religion, some in Iran are turning to a former traditional religion. Lord Jesus, shine the light of Your truth into the hearts of those who are in the dark about who You are, so that they will come to know You: the way, the truth and the life.

Day 6

Pray this verse for every Christian in Iran:

"Teach me Your way, Lord, that I may rely on Your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear Your name." — Psalm 86:11, NIV

You can add names or whole groups of people into the verse to make it more specific. For example: "Lord, teach Christians in Iran what You want them to do. May they rely on You. Teach them to fear (respect) You completely."

Day 7

Pray that God will pour out His Holy Spirit all across Iran. May He remove the places where evil abounds, may He open doors that are closed to the gospel and may the hearts of many turn to the truth of what Jesus has done.

Week 2



“Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision ... but born of God.”

— John 1:12-13, NIV

Week 2 Requests



Day 8

Iran, like many other nations, has a serious problem with dangerous crime. 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.

Day 9

As in many countries, domestic violence occurs in many Iranian homes. Pray that husbands would treat their families with respect and trust. And pray that households throughout Iran would experience salvation and the love and forgiveness of Jesus.

Day 10

Iran's military has great influence and power in the country. Ask the Lord to help this institution fulfill its purpose, helping and protecting the Iranian people well.

Day 11

The levels of drug abuse and addiction in Iran are among the highest in the world. Father God, please have mercy on Iran. May drug addicts be drawn to the hope of the gospel and experience true freedom. Pray that the Lord would draw every Iranian to Himself.

Day 12

Some Iranian communities have a very high unemployment rate, leading to a low quality of life and despair for the people who live in these places. Please ask the Lord to restore the local economy, and for Iranians to long for the Good Shepherd, the Lord Jesus, who will meet their every need.

Day 13

In the following verse, the apostle Paul clearly encourages Christians to pray for everyone. Let's pray for every Iranian person to know what is true and to be saved!

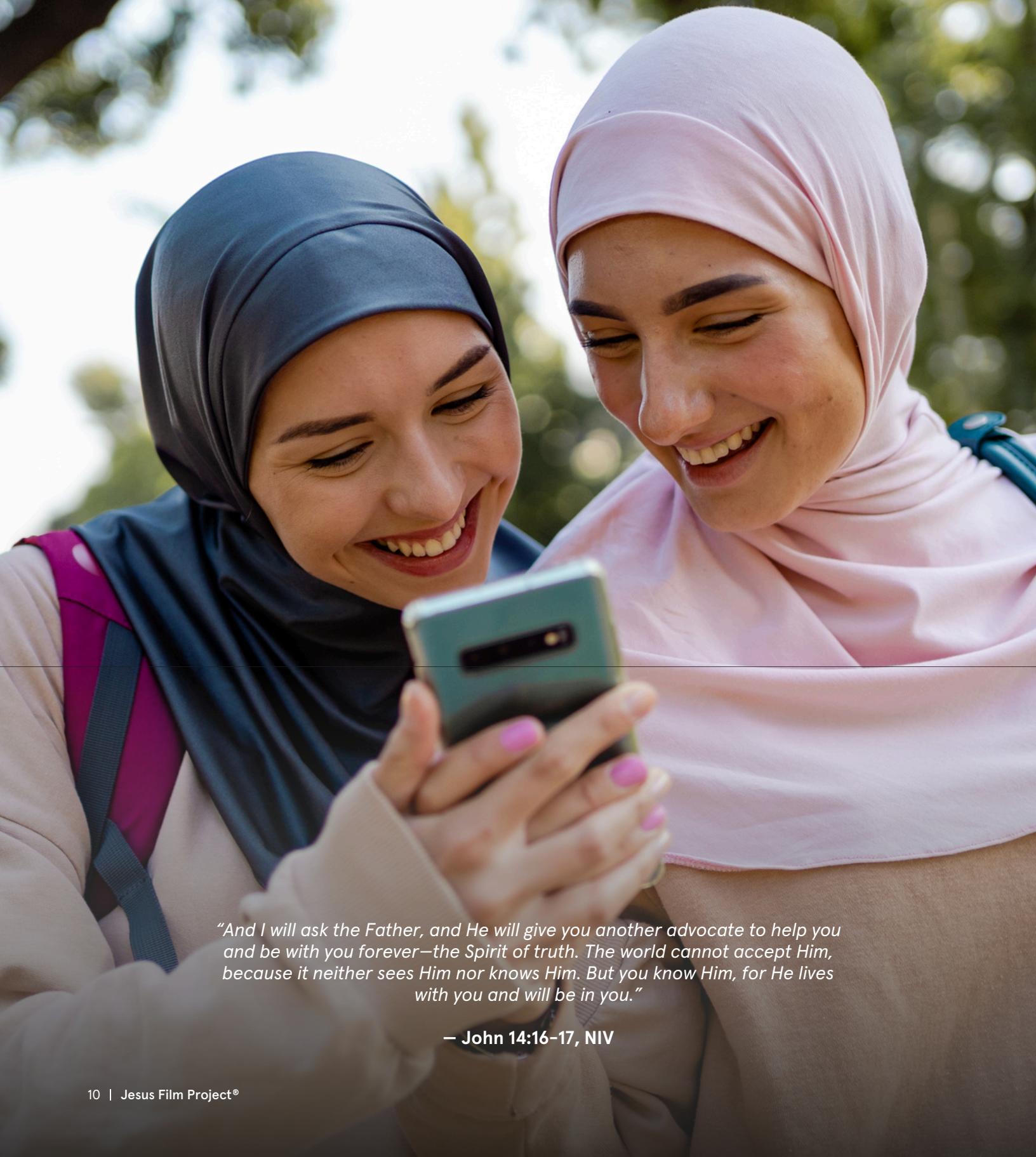
"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people... This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."

— 1 Timothy 2:1, 3-4, NIV

Day 14

Pray that God will pour out His Holy Spirit all across Iran. May He open doors that are closed to the gospel and may the hearts of many turn to the truth of what Jesus has done.

Week 3



“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you.”

— John 14:16–17, NIV

Week 3 Requests



Day 15

Some towns in Iran don't have internet access, which makes it difficult for believers to connect with people seeking to know more about Jesus in these remote locations. Please pray for the provision of reliable internet in each village, so that everyone will know the name of Jesus!

Day 16

Ask the Lord to open the doors of every campus to the good news of Jesus so that Iran's students will come to know Him. Pray that they in turn can become influential leaders who help others also discover and come to faith in Him.

Day 17

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

Many cities in Iran contain major religious shrines. The people within these cities generally don't know about Jesus, and they may not know the truth about the one true God. Please ask Jesus to reveal Himself to those who need Him in these places, drawing them to worship Him.

Day 19

Parts of Iran still only have dirt roads. Please pray for local leaders to pave and repair these roads, so that Christians can spread God's message of hope broadly and rapidly throughout Iran!

Day 20

Join with me in praying this prayer written by Paul for the Christians in Ephesus. Today, pray this for Christians in Iran.

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better."
— Ephesians 1:17, NIV

Day 21

People with disabilities and rare diseases are often treated poorly and ignored by some in Iran. Please pray for provision and compassionate and fair treatment for the needy in Iranian society. May they learn to draw near to the Lord who loves them and laid down His life for them.

Week 4



*"May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make His face shine on us—
so that Your ways may be known on earth,
Your salvation among all nations."*

— Psalm 67:1-2, NIV

Week 4 Requests



Day 22

There are major irrigation and water pollution problems throughout Iran. Ask the Lord to draw people to Himself, the only source of living water, and to grant wisdom to those resolving these problems, which greatly affect the health of the people.

Day 23

As gospel-themed clips are posted online, please pray that those who watch them would be drawn to the life-changing message they see. Pray that online follow-up and discipleship will be very fruitful, helping people take their next steps toward knowing the biblical Jesus.

Day 24

Pray that Iran's leaders would fear the Lord and not man. May they humbly realize their need for God's wisdom, strength and grace, so that they can lead the nation well.

Day 25

Many Iranians travel to neighboring countries during holidays and vacations and hear the gospel message from Christians while they are on their travels. Please pray that the seeds of God's truth will bear fruit in their hearts and lead them to know Jesus.

Day 26

God may call people 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 language of the country where they are called, so they can communicate with their neighbors in their heart language.

Day 27

Join me in praying that all Iranian Christians will faithfully read the Bible, learn what God wants them to do and then do it.

"And may your hearts be fully committed to the Lord our God, to live by His decrees and obey His commands, as at this time." – 1 Kings 8:61, NIV

Day 28

Residential buildings regularly collapse because of improper materials, poor construction and lack of inspections. Please pray for community and business leaders to practice integrity and honesty. May they be drawn powerfully to the Lord's commitment to truth and justice.

Week 5 Requests



Day 29

A new short film is in the works that will address a long-held misconception that keeps many Iranians from believing in Jesus. Please pray that many Iranians will be drawn to the Lord through this new film!

Day 30

Due to tough economic sanctions, many poor Iranians desperately take out loans with very high interest rates. Father God, please help the poor and underprivileged receive true financial help from banks and government agencies. May they ultimately commit their needs to the Lord and see Him 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 has had the opportunity 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 over 2,000 languages available on our website. jesusfilm.org/watch/jesus.html/english.html
- ▶ We also have multiple other films and short videos available. jesusfilm.org/watch.html
- ▶ 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.



Each month we will focus on a different least-reached country. Many of the people in these countries have never heard the message of the gospel, or it's difficult for them to learn about Jesus or worship Him. Nearly 75% of all the world's unreached people—a whopping 3.6 billion people—live in the 12 countries that we will pray for this year.

Learn more at jesusfilm.org/pray.

