

Notes for facilitators:

*Thank you! You can prepare by reading over the prayer plan. The time frames are suggestions and can be adjusted. It is not necessary to pray through every section but we do recommend finishing with the section **Declaring His Truth over Turkey**. This helps end the prayer time in a place of celebration and confidence.*

For the Prayer Stations print or write out the verses & prayer points in advance then place them in different parts of the room. Set a timer that everyone can hear when it is time to move on to another station

**Take note of how many people are praying together today and how long you spent in prayer. We'll let you know how many people you joined with in prayer and how many hours of prayer we jointly sent up before the throne!*

We've got a lot of things to pray for so we recommend asking everyone to arrive early in order to have a full hour of prayer!

Welcome and thank everyone for coming. Remember we are praying today because it is the Sacrifice Holiday for Muslims and this is a key opportunity to partner with the Lord and our brothers & sisters in Turkey.

Facilitator or someone else pray to open up to give the time to the Lord. A suggestions to include: Lord to share His heart for Turkey with us and guide our prayers

- Pray to open up to give the time to the Lord

What is the Muslim Sacrifice Holiday? (Known as Kurban Bayram in Turkish) (5 minutes)

Facilitator reads:

“This holiday marks the culmination of the religious rituals on the hajj. Hajj is the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, [Saudi Arabia] that is a mandatory religious duty which every adult Muslim must make at least once in his or her lifetime. The Sacrifice Holiday honors the willingness of Ibrahim (Abraham) to sacrifice his son as an act of obedience to Allah’s command. While the Quran does not clearly state which son of Ibrahim (Abraham) this was, most Muslims believe that it was Ishmael. The account in Genesis 22 stresses that it was the son of the promise - Isaac.

In the Quranic story, Ibrahim showed he was willing to submit to Allah’s command and make the ultimate sacrifice. But while Ibrahim was willing, Allah did not require it. He provided an animal to sacrifice in the son’s place. Though this festival commemorates Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice his son, the Old Testament meaning of such blood sacrifices is not understood by most Muslims. They understand that the sacrifice itself as practiced during this holiday has nothing to do with atoning for their sins or seeing blood as necessary for cleansing from sin.

The central event is a family's ritual slaughter of a costly animal. Every family that can afford to do so voluntarily slaughters a ritually acceptable animal (a sheep, goat, cow, or camel). Families kill the animal in the courtyards of their house or in the streets. They cut the carcass into thirds and distribute it equally among themselves, the poor, and friends and neighbors. Every year, hundreds of millions of animals are slaughtered on this day around the world.

Many communities organize a massive public outdoor prayer time in the morning of the first day of the festival. The women spend hours cooking specialty foods for the holiday, and everyone dresses in new clothes. Families, friends, and neighbors share food and gifts with each other and visit one another late into the night.

Former Muslim believers in Christ often find it one of the hardest times of the year and some substitute this feast with a new Christian celebration. Others see it as mostly a social event and happily join their Muslim families as they visit and enjoy time together.”

Note: information from <https://www.prayercast.com/eid-al-adha.html>

Now we'll be focusing on those who don't know this good news

What is the situation in Turkey?

Facilitator reads:

Population: 85,600,000

Religion: Islam

Percentage Christian : 0.2% so 171,200 including Catholic, Orthodox, Evangelical, etc
Nationalism and Islam are intrinsically linked and anyone who is not a Muslim, particularly someone who openly lives out a different faith, is seen to be a disloyal Turk.

OpenDoors: <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/persecution/countries/turkey/>

Reflection with the Lord (5 minutes)

Facilitator:

- Based on what you just learned about this holiday, the situation in Turkey, and the practice of offering an annual sacrifice let's spend a minute in silent reflection on the cross and the sacrifice of Jesus. (What difference has it made in your life that Jesus came as a sacrifice for your sins?)
- Imagine being one of the many people who have never met a follower of Jesus. Reflect on the Father heart of God who “ is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)

Now get into groups of 2-3. Celebrate the willing perfect sacrifice of Jesus together! And Pray for eyes to be opened to see their need for a sacrifice and the shedding of blood to cover sins,

pray for understanding that Jesus is that perfect sacrifice and savior, and whatever else the Lord puts on your heart related to these verses and themes (Hebrews 9:22 and 28)

Ali & Zehra (5 minutes)

Facilitator chooses a volunteer to read & shares these paragraphs with him/her:

“Ali wasn’t a good Muslim. He was an alcoholic. His terrified kids would watch him beat his wife, Zehra. He hated himself for it so he moved away from his family to Saudi Arabia so he couldn’t hurt them. He still struggled with drinking but he became really determined to change.

“So he went on the Hajj [the Muslim Pilgrimage to Mecca which precedes the Sacrifice Holiday]. He went to seek Allah’s help. He hoped he would become a devout Muslim. He didn’t want to hurt his family. His first night in Mecca, Jesus appeared to him in a dream saying, ‘You belong to me.’ When he woke up, he heard [Jesus’] voice again: ‘You belong to me.’

“He went back to his wife and children with tears and just sobbing, he begged their forgiveness. It was a start. But his transformation over time inspired his family to follow Jesus. [For 3 years he had no access to a Bible and it was seven years before he met another Turkish Christian*]. Now Ali and Zehra are pastoring a church.”

Ali & Zehra’s personal stories of meeting Jesus are just a few examples of how Muslim men and women are finding biblical truth — even in an unlikely experience such as the Hajj.”

Information from:

<https://www.mnnonline.org/news/muslims-on-hajj-pilgrimage-to-mecca-are-finding-salvation-in-jesus/>

And * <https://www.heartpublications.co.uk/muslim-goes-to-mecca-and-finds-jesus/>

Response: Pray all together at the same time out loud.

- Praise the Lord for sending dreams and visions! Pray for more!
- Pray for Him to connect people who had the dreams and visions with His disciples

Prayer Stations (5 minutes at each station= 20 minutes total on this section)

Instructions: Get in groups of 2-3, go to a station, read the verse(s) pray the prayer prompts and whatever else the Lord puts on your heart! After the timer goes off go to another prayer station you haven’t prayed at yet and repeat the process. The order for the prayer stations doesn’t matter

Station #1

Psalm 46:1-2,10

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea...He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

- Pray for the Lord to be exalted in the midst of the earthquake tragedies,
- Pray for the people to discover Him as a refuge and strength, and the Healer
- Pray for the people celebrating the holiday who have lost homes, family members, jobs...
- Pray for wisdom, provision, and open doors for disciples serving this area

Station #2

Luke 10:2-3

"He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. "

- Pray for more laborers: from outside cultures, similar cultures, the same culture, from within the harvest, etc.
- Pray for followers to experience His presence and peace when among wolves
- Pray for boldness, discernment and opportunities to share with family, friends, & neighbors during the holiday

Station #3

Acts 16:31-33

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household. Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized."

- Pray that it won't just be individuals but whole families, friend groups, coworkers etc to come to the Lord together
- Pray for the people curious about the Lord to have courage to talk about this with their friends and families so they can become seeking groups
- Pray for these groups to become house churches

Station #4

Ephesians 3:20-21

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

Pray for the Lord to do more than we can imagine! Ask for Him to receive glory in all generations in Turkey. Imagine what God might want to do here and then ask Him for that and even more.

For example:

- Pray for multiplying churches and disciples in every province,
- Pray for every follower equipped as a disciple maker,
- Pray for people from every worldview and background to come to the Lord,
- Pray for groups and communities to come to Him together (like how Ali had the dream then his family started following Jesus together)
- Pray for every person to have access to the Word in their heart language

Facilitator: Bring everyone back together into one group after all the stations have been prayed through

Image of the city (10 minutes)

Picture a large walled city in front of you. You're part of an army looking at these walls but not directly attacking. As you watch, the walls crumble and fall down. These walls are spiritual strongholds. Through prayer these walls will crumble and the Kingdom of heaven will advance. Keep this image in mind as we continue in prayer

We're going to give you some suggestions for what these walls symbolize. Pick one of these and then in two minutes of silence ask the Lord to bring to mind how to pray about this. What does He want to be there instead of this stronghold? After 2 minutes of silence (*Facilitator set a timer*) pray together as a group out loud

Bitterness/unforgiveness/resentment

Nationalism

Money/economy/luxury

Pride

Rejection

Agnosticism/atheism

Anger

Broken families

Self sufficiency

Declaring His Truth over Turkey (10 minutes)

End with praise because He's heard our prayers. Proclaim God's promises like Habakkuk 2:14 and "personalize" them for Turkey like "For [Turkey] will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea."

After each person speaks truth the group together says "I agree"

Ideas to declare over this land and the peoples:

"Jesus' sacrifice is enough"

“Grace will increase in Turkey” based off Romans 5:20

“Jesus’ blood purifies His church from sin” based off 1 John 1:7

“God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth (including Turkey) and under the earth, and every (Turkish, Kurdish, Arab) tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” based off Philippians 2:9-11

Thank you for partnering with us in prayer! We look forward to seeing what the Lord does through your intercession!

Remember to send us how many people prayed with you for the hour!