



Leaders' guide

Prayer for the Middle East

This guide is designed to help you lead your congregation in prayer for women in the Middle East. It is intended for use in conjunction with the **PowerPoint presentation entitled Let's pray for the Middle East**, which includes a slide displaying three key prayer points and subsequent slides with a liturgy for the Middle East.

Introduction

The news we hear about women in the Middle East is often negative – oppression, discrimination and violence.

But this is not the whole story. God is on the move through people like Mariam, whom you may have met through our Christmas appeal letter. Working through humble, faithful women, God is bringing people into his kingdom. In places where Christians have been a small minority, women are quietly sharing the gospel and making disciples.

Pray for what God is doing across the Middle East: for peace for this region, which has known so much tragedy, for God to satisfy the hunger of those who are hungering for Jesus, for the women God is raising up to help satisfy that hunger.

Encourage your congregation to engage in different forms of prayer as they feel led. You may wish to incorporate creative prayer activities (**detailed in the accompanying Creative prayer for the Middle East resource**) or perhaps take an offering as part of your response.

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**With Jesus
With each other
To the edges**

Guided Prayer Points

(Display the *Let's pray for women in the Middle East* slides as you lead these prayers)

➤ For a region in turmoil

God, we bring to you the region of the Middle East. We hear so much about war, conflict and suffering in this region. We thank you that in the midst of this turmoil, there is a harvest happening and you are at work. Lord, this region has known so much pain, heartbreak, tragedy. We ask for your peace to break out across the Middle East. We ask you to draw more people to yourself, for more people to hear of your love and for more people to accept your invitation of eternal life.

➤ For those who are seeking

Lord, we ask you to reveal your love and the way to eternal life to all those in the Middle East who are hungering for you and asking questions about Jesus. For all those who are searching, we ask for encouragement. For those who are beginning to explore faith, we ask for revelation. For women like Mariam, whose faith will cost them everything, we ask for strength so they don't give up.

➤ For the women God is raising up

Lord, we thank you and praise you for each of the many women you are already working through across the Middle East. We thank you that through these women, you are drawing people to Jesus and bringing people into your kingdom. Please raise up even more humble, faithful women to spread the light of Jesus across the region. We pray for more people to come to know you.

Offering as a moment of prayer

As part of your prayer time, you may want to take up an offering for Christians in the Middle East and around the world who are making disciples where followers of Jesus are in a minority. Invite the congregation into a moment of silent reflection and prayer as the offering is collected. If praying during an evening service, consider taking the offering in darkness, with a single candle lit as a symbol of God's light shining in the darkness, or combining the offering with one of our suggested creative prayer responses.

Thank you for praying

Through spending time in prayer and taking an offering if you feel led to, you are standing with women across the Middle East as they share God's love where Christians are in a minority. Thank you for being part of God's mission to bring transformation to the Middle East. If you as a church share your prayer activities or reflections on social media, don't forget to tag CMS (#middleeastchristmas) so we can join you in prayer.