

Night of Power

Virtual Prayer Event

Summary

This suggested outline will work for a group for a prayer time of around an hour and a half. It focuses on several Muslim countries, unreached people groups and the UK. This session is designed to be done over a video call, but feel free to use other places and people groups, adjust suggested timings and adapt for your situation. For larger groups, you may prefer to break out into smaller groups to pray. Much of this material can also be prepared for those without internet access.

We're praying big prayers so want to be God focused – weaving together worship, time to listen to him and faith-filled praying.

In preparation

1. Pray before you gather to pray! – for those who will come, for readiness to catch more of God's heart for Muslim people and for God to speak.
2. Have the movement story ready to tell (Appendix A).
3. Send the link to the prayer cards (Appendix B) .
4. Encourage each person to find maps of the Middle East and the UK online or from an atlas.

Introduction, opening worship and prayer (10 mins)

Before beginning the video call, encourage people to use two or three hymns or songs and / or spoken worship that help people to focus on God, his greatness and his glory. Watch this video as a way of focusing on the need: <https://vimeo.com/410990455>

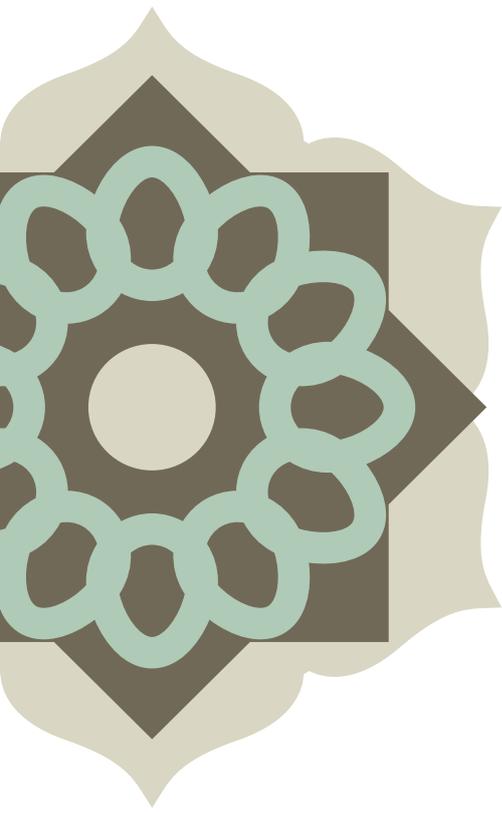
Give some background to the Night of Power – Muslims believe that on this night particularly God will hear and answer their prayers. It's said that this was the night that Muhammad first received the Qur'an and that praying through this night is better than praying for a thousand months. It is believed that if they pray without rest until dawn, God will forgive their sins.

As so many Muslims are fervently seeking after God, we want to be interceding on their behalf that eyes would be opened and for revelation of who Jesus really is.

Reflection (5 mins)

Take some time to reflect quietly on barriers, concerns and fears that there might be in us, our hearts and minds, as we come to pray – just as there were in Peter ahead of the good news coming to a Gentile household (Acts 10:34–35).

Invite a few to pray for God to grow and soften our hearts for Muslim people, to have greater compassion – as Jesus had for the crowds (Matt 9:36).



Pray for unreached Muslim peoples (15 mins)

*Jesus said 'Open your eyes and look at the fields!
They are ripe for harvest.'*

John 4:35

One perspective as we look at the fields is to see people groups (peoples or nations in the Bible). There are almost 17,000 distinct people groups in the world and about 7,000 are unreached – that is, there are not enough Christians (if any) to reach their own people with the gospel – they need outside help. About half of these unreached groups are Muslim.

Tell the story in Appendix A – a snapshot from what God is doing in East Africa that we pray will be replicated in these least reached regions.

Ask each person to open the prayer cards from the links in Appendix B. Encourage them to choose a different region from India, Pakistan, Chad, Sudan and the Caucasus. These are countries / regions with many unreached peoples.

The first person prays for the first people group, praying for one of the three 'Ps' (below). The second in the group prays a 'P' for another people group and so on. Keep going in turn praying several times each. Encourage very short prayers – they are no less powerful and effective!

Personal encounters – that as Muslims from this people group seek God tonight, he would reveal himself to them.

Proclamation – that God's word would be proclaimed to this people group and for workers who can share in their heart language.

Pray-ers – that prayer would increase and many would commit to pray for this people group.

Listening and praying for the Middle East (10 mins)

Encourage each person to mute their microphones, then for them to watch the video 'Ishmael' www.prayercast.com/ishmael.html (focusing on the Middle East through a song of prayer and scriptures). Take time for people to reflect quietly, hear from God and pray.

Pray for the Middle East using scripture (10 mins)

Refugee and humanitarian crises and Islamist violence keep the Middle East in the news. Use scripture to pray for the Muslims of Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestinian Territories, Yemen. If possible have a map displayed as you pray. The leader could share their screen with an image of a map.

Using Psalm 96 (or choose another passage) take turns to read a couple of verses and then pray based on them in your own words eg. for vv 1–2 'Lord we pray that new songs of worship will be sung to you in [country / city / the Middle East]. We pray that many will follow you and proclaim the good news of your salvation to their own.'

When you get to the end of the Psalm / passage – go back to the start and keep going.

Pray for Muslims in the UK (10 mins)

The UK is home to around 3.5 million Muslims, about 5% of the population. They are from scores of different people groups, many of which are unreached. Take a short time in quietness to think of names / characteristics of Jesus that speak of who he is, that are most meaningful to you and that you long for Muslims to discover.

As a symbolic act in praying for Muslims in the UK write the names / characteristics on Post-it notes or pieces of paper. If possible place them on a map of the UK, or do this whilst viewing a map on the screen.

Pray as a large group speaking out the names / characteristics and for Muslim people in the UK to see Jesus for who he is.



Pray for Muslims locally (15 mins)

Encourage everyone to take time to reflect and be reminded of one Muslim they know or have met. This could be a friend, a neighbour, a work colleague or the taxi driver or shop keeper whose name they don't know.

Each share the name or some details of the person they know. If they don't know anyone, share this too.

Pray for each of them in turn – that they would have opportunities to bless the Muslim they know and have spiritual conversations with them. If they do not know any Muslims, pray that God would bring Muslims across their path and give opportunities to bless them.

For encouragement, mute your microphones, then watch this two minute video (story of a young Iranian lady coming to the UK and coming to faith in Jesus):

<https://vimeo.com/217022963>

Ask everyone to think of two roles that they hold e.g. mother, son, grandfather, student, engineer, teacher etc. Then pray for Muslims who hold similar roles to them locally / nearby:

- 1 That God would bring Christians into their lives who demonstrate God's love.
- 2 That their eyes and hearts would be opened to Jesus.
- 3 For Christians around them to be bold and courageous in witnessing.
- 4 For Jesus to be revealed through dreams and visions.
- 5 That whole families would discover Jesus and follow him.

Conclusion (5 mins)

Take some time for quiet reflection on what God may be asking of us, and share in pairs.

Pray to close – Father, we stand in unity with Christians praying worldwide on this 'night of power'. We're praying for an outpouring of your Spirit right across the Muslim world. As Muslim people seek you, we ask again that you will reveal yourself to them in dreams and visions. May countless millions have a life-changing encounter with you, where they will come to know you as 'Father' and Jesus as 'Isa al-Masih', Jesus the Messiah.

Other possibilities if more time is available

If there is a local believer from a Muslim background you could ask them to share prayer needs from their perspective.

If there is a Christian working in a local Muslim community, you could ask them to share their priorities for prayer.

Identify some of the Muslim people groups living nearby and provide further background information.

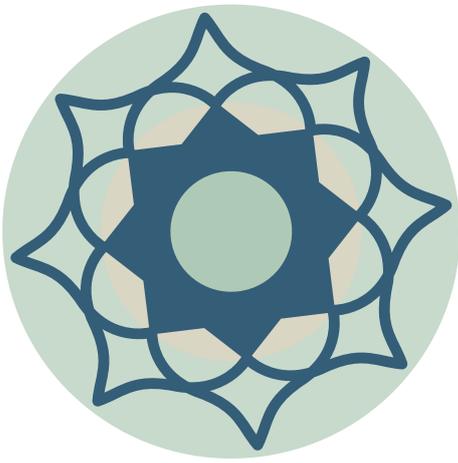
Next steps

Go to www.30daysprayer.org.uk for more prayer resources.

To receive a daily message during Ramadan – a prompt to prayer and practical engagement – sign up at www.mahabbanetwork.com/lovefast. If you would like info and further resources for continuing to pray for Muslims locally, or details of nearby work with Muslims, contact Mahabba www.mahabbanetwork.com

To pray ten minutes a day for the wider Muslim world – sign up at <https://www.frontiers.org.uk/latest/pray-now.php>

To extend your prayers to the Hindu World check out 15 Days of Prayer for the Hindu World at www.15daysprayer.org.uk



Appendix A

Christmas Day found me in the Horn of Africa seated on the floor with 20 leaders from an ancient Muslim community. I listened in disbelief as they told me of their discovery that Isa al-Masih (Jesus Christ) was God among us; the only way of salvation. 'C'mon,' I said incredulously, 'how many of you have been baptised?' I knew that this act of commitment separated casual fans of Jesus from actual followers. To my amazement, 19 of the 20 leaders raised their hands. One of them laughed and pointed to the lone unraised hand: 'He will be baptised next week.'

The next day a sheikh named Hasan told me his story. 'An African evangelist gave me an Injil (New Testament) in the Arabic language. Because the Injil was in Arabic, God's language, I knew that it must be true, so I began to read it.' That night Hasan had a dream. 'I saw a tall minaret. I was disturbed to see a man with an axe chopping the minaret down. When I looked closer, I saw that the man...was me!'

The shock of the dream awakened the sheikh in a panic. 'I had the same dream three times,' he said. 'The next day, I found the evangelist who had given me the Injil. "What does this dream mean?" I demanded. He looked at me and smiled. "You will win many sheikhs to faith in Jesus Christ."'

Today, Sheikh Hasan travels from village to village, speaking to sheikhs, who are leaders of the Islamic community. 'So far,' he told me, 'I have led 400 sheikhs to faith in Jesus Christ.'

Extract from 'Muslims turning to Christ – a global phenomenon' by David Garrison in Premier Christianity Read the full article here <https://www.premierchristianity.com/Past-Issues/2016/June-2016/Muslims-turning-to-Christ-a-global-phenomenon>

Appendix B

Prayer cards for Chad – suggested pages to use: 1, 5, 6, 7

<https://joshuaproject.net/pray/cards/ROG3/CD/PeopNameInCountry/Population/Y>

Prayer cards for Sudan – suggested pages to use: 2, 3, 5, 6, 10

<https://joshuaproject.net/pray/cards/ROG3/SU/PeopNameInCountry/Population/Y>

Prayer cards for Caucasus (Russia) – suggested pages to use: 293, 294, 295, 296

<https://joshuaproject.net/pray/cards/RLG3/6/Ctry/PeopNameInCountry/Y>

Prayer cards for India – suggested pages to use: 124, 125, 132, 134, 141

<https://joshuaproject.net/pray/cards/RLG3/6/Ctry/PeopNameInCountry/Y>

Prayer cards for Pakistan – suggested pages to use: 4, 5, 16, 19, 20

<https://joshuaproject.net/pray/cards/ROG3/PK/PeopNameInCountry/Population/Y>

