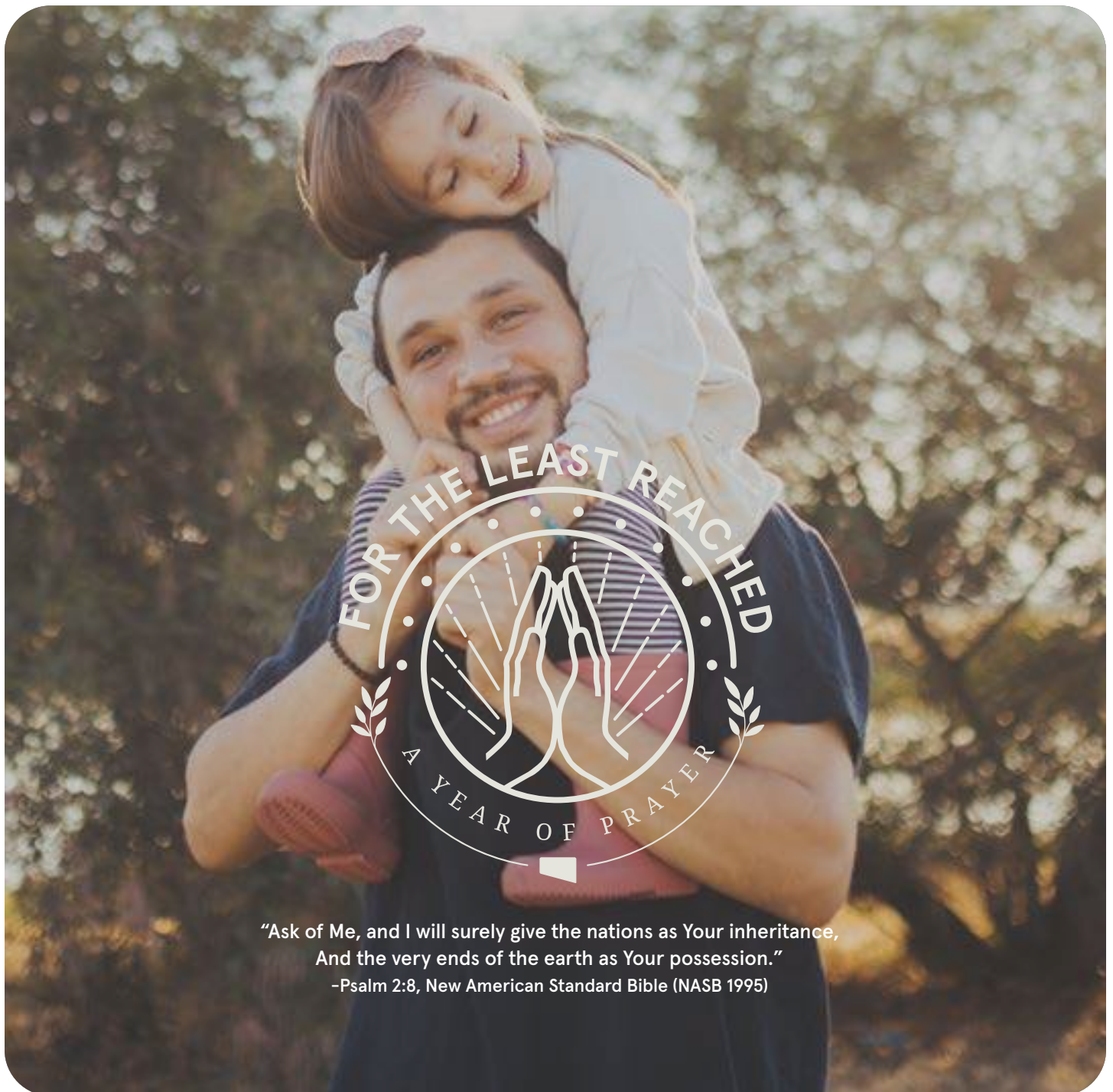


Family Guide

May 2022
Turkey



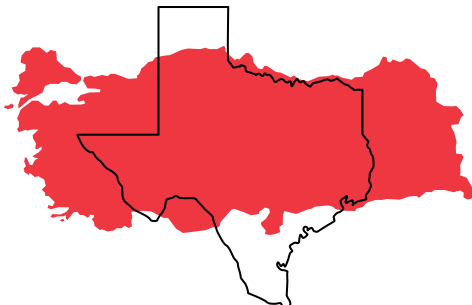
"Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance,
And the very ends of the earth as Your possession."
-Psalm 2:8, New American Standard Bible (NASB 1995)

Welcome to Turkey!

This month we will pray for another country that spans two continents: Turkey! Istanbul—the country’s largest city—expands both east and west of the Bosphorus strait, resting in both Europe and Asia. The Bosphorus Bridge connects Asia with Europe.



Turkey is larger than Texas.



Fun facts about Turkey.

Acts 11:26 says, “... the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.” Antioch is a city in Turkey. Other biblical sites can also be found in modern-day Turkey, like Ephesus, Colossae, Tarsus, Troas, Iconium, Lystra and Laodicea. Search your Bible app for one of these cities to see the verses that talk about it.

Mount Ararat, the tallest point in Turkey, is commonly believed to be the place where Noah’s ark came to rest after the biblical flood. This image is from a replica ark in Kentucky.



Did you know that Turkey has wild bears, meaning they’re not just in a zoo? The brown bear that lives in Turkey is the only bear in the world with white claws.



The gray wolf is the national animal of Turkey. Legend tells us that a gray wolf led Turks leaving Asia to their new home in Anatolia, Turkey, a city on the European side of Turkey.



Ready to pray for the people of Turkey?

Welcome to month five of *For the Least Reached: A Year of Prayer*. What a journey we are on. Each month we are focusing on a different “least-reached” country. There are 12 of them. These 12 countries we are focusing on throughout the year need to hear the gospel message the most. We call them “least reached” because many of the people in these countries have never heard about Jesus, or it’s difficult for them to hear about Him. Nearly 75% of all the world’s unreached (or least-reached) people—a whopping 3.6 billion people—live in these 12 countries. Pretty amazing.

At Jesus Film Project®, we’re working hard to record the *JESUS* film into heart languages around the world. We mentioned in an earlier month that people understand concepts much better in their heart language—the language they learned as a child—as opposed to a second language.

Right now, I’d like you to watch a few minutes of *JESUS* in Turkish (if you don’t speak Turkish) so you can experience what many people experience when they watch in a language they can’t understand. You’ll find it on this website:
<https://www.jesusfilm.org/watch/jesus.html/turkish.html>
If you need help getting there, ask an adult or your parents to help you.

Did you watch it? And could you understand what was being said? I can’t. I do not speak Turkish. Now, if you go watch *JESUS* in English, or in your heart language, can you understand? That is why we, Jesus Film Project, work so hard to get films like *JESUS* recorded into more languages all the time. We want everyone to have a chance to see and hear *JESUS* in a language they can really understand. Currently, we have the movie in more than 1,900 languages.

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. You can also email me if you’d like to get a previous month’s family packet. I’d love to hear from you! prayer@jesusfilm.org



01

Week 1: May 1–7, 2022

“Lord, all the nations You have made will come and worship You. They will honor You.”

—Psalm 86:9, International Children’s Bible



Week 1 Prayers



> Since they were little, young people in Turkey have been taught to believe in a certain god that is not the Bible’s God. Now many of them are doubting their belief and have questions about what they’ve been taught. Pray the true God will lead them to clear answers in the Bible.

> Each week, let’s pray through a verse. In the verse below, the writer (Paul) clearly encourages us to pray for everyone. That includes your family, your friends, your neighbors, your classmates, the people in your city, state, nation and all the people of Turkey. Does this seem impossible? It doesn’t have to be. Make a plan. Pray for one group each day.

“First, I tell you to pray for all people. Ask God for the things people need, and be thankful to Him. ... God wants all people to be saved. And He wants everyone to know the truth.” – 1 Timothy 2:1,4, ICB

> Young people in Turkey enjoy learning different languages. Some of them join language clubs where they can make new friends and practice the language they’re learning. Pray that through these language clubs Christians and students who want to know about Jesus can get to know each other.

> Praise God for college students in Turkey who already know Jesus! Pray God gives them boldness to share their faith in Jesus with others, helping them grow a strong faith muscle.

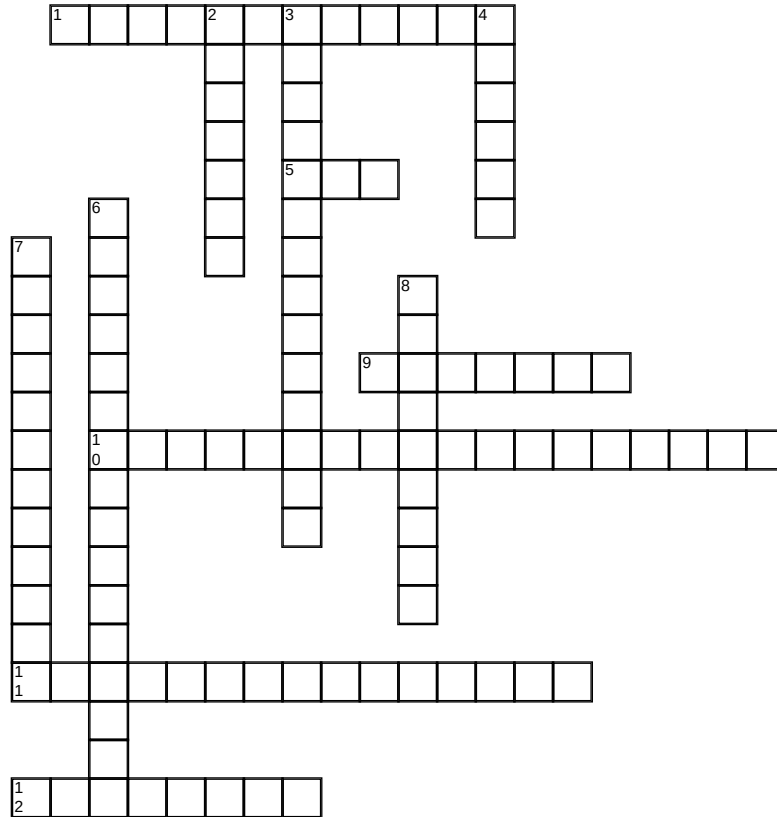
> Have you ever tried digging in soil that’s almost rock-hard? It’s really hard work breaking up the ground, but we keep on digging until the job is done, don’t we? That can be the condition of the hearts of many college students—so hard, in fact, that the love of Jesus can barely find a way in. Ask God to help Christians pray every day for students’ hearts to become softer—even if it takes a really long time—until those hearts are ready to welcome Him. When praying becomes hard work, don’t stop until the job is done.

> Praise God that more and more people from Turkey are visiting Christian YouTube channels and finding videos about the God of the Bible. Ask Him to lead many more people to find these videos and experience the love and goodness He freely offers to everyone.

> A mentor is a person who guides someone in becoming the person they want to be. Mentor friends on Christian websites guide people to learn about and live like Jesus. Ask God to provide more mentor friends to Turkish people.

Week 1 Activity: Crossword

Turkey Crossword



Across

- 1 This famous building has been a church, a mosque and a museum since 537 AD
- 5 A popular drink throughout Turkey
- 9 Muslim holiday that includes an extended time of fasting, prayer and reflection
- 10 The official name of this country
- 11 A sweet treat mentioned in the Chronicles of Narnia
- 12 Large, well known city in Turkey

Down

- 2 The city where Jesus' followers were first called Christians
- 3 Born in Patara, Turkey in around 300 AD. Many say Santa Claus came from this historical figure.
- 4 Capital of Turkey
- 6 Waterway through Istanbul separating Europe and Asia
- 7 Many believe Noah's ark landed here
- 8 National animal

WORD LIST:

ANKARA	GRAY_WOLF	MOUNT_ARARAT	SAINT_NICHOLAS
ANTIOCH	HAGIA_SOPHIA	RAMADAN	TEA
BOSPHORUS_STRAIT	ISTANBUL	REPUBLIC_OF_TURKEY	TURKISH_DELIGHT

02

Week 2: May 8-14, 2022

“Then all the people of the world will know the Lord is the only true God.”

—1 Kings 8:60, ICB



Week 2 Prayers



> Ask God to provide equipment Christians can use to share the story of Jesus. Pray He provides a place from which Christians can create things like videos, radio programs and podcasts that help people learn about Jesus.

> There are some Christian families who had been living in another country. But, they were made to move because of a difficult situation. Now they live and serve God in Turkey. Pray these families soon settle into their new homes, make new friends and begin to share the love of Jesus with the people of Turkey.

> COVID-19 is still making many people sick in Turkey, so lots of places are closed down. This makes it hard for Christians to meet with people to talk about God. Ask God to show Christians in Turkey some creative ways to safely meet people who want to learn about Jesus.

> It's usually best when Christians in Turkey build trust with new friends before sharing about Jesus and inviting their friends to accept Him as their Savior. Pray that God will give Christians lots of opportunities to meet new people and build strong friendships with them.

> Today we are praying this verse for every Christian in Turkey.

“Lord, teach me what You want me to do. And I will live by Your truth. Teach me to respect You completely.”

— Psalm 86:11, ICB

When praying Scripture, you can simply add names or whole groups of people into the verse. Like this: *“Lord, teach each Christian in Turkey what You want them to do. May they live by Your truth. Teach them to respect You completely.”* This is another great verse to pray for yourself, your family and friends.

> Christians in Turkey will soon be able to attend a conference that will help them grow in their faith. Pray that many people will go to the conference. Ask God to help them think and live more like Jesus, so they can train others to do it too.

> Being married and being a parent are hard jobs! It helps a lot to learn what God's Word (the Bible) says about marriage and about parenting. Pray that husbands and wives think about their spouses the way God does. Pray they treat each other with respect. Pray, too, that moms and dads lead their families wisely and love them well.

Week 2 Activity: Word Search

Turkey Word Search

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

WORD LIST:

ANKARA

ANTIOCH

BOSPHORUS
STRAIT

EPHESUS

GRAY WOLF

HAGIA SOPHIA

ISTANBUL

KURDS

RAMADAN

SAINT NICHOLAS

TEA

TURKISH
DELIGHT

03

Week 3: May 15–21, 2022

“God, have mercy on us and bless us. Show Your kindness to us. Then the world will learn Your ways. All nations will learn that You can save.”

— PSALM 67:1-2, ICB



Week 3 Prayers



> The people who make heart language Bibles and Christian videos (we’ll call them “makers”) are usually not the ones who take those tools to Turkey and other places so that people can hear about Jesus in their heart language (we’ll call these people “takers”). If the makers didn’t make, then the takers couldn’t take. Both the makers and the takers are important and needed to get the job done. Let’s pray for the safety and well-being of those who make and take gospel tools to all people in Turkey.

Did you know that God has created each of His children to do something special to please Him? If Jesus is your Savior, then someday you will know if He has made you a maker or a taker, or if He has some other way for you to serve Him. Thank God He lets His children join Him in the work He is doing in our world.

> When God inspires Christians to serve Him in some way, He provides the supplies and money they need to do it. Ask God to help them be good managers of what God provides and to trust Him for all their needs.

> Whenever anyone wants to travel from their own country to another country, they need to get permission from the country they are visiting. Pray that Turkey will give Christians coming from another country permission to visit or maybe live there to share God’s love with its people.

> Soon there will be a gathering of Christian workers. Ask God to give them good ideas and plans, and for everyone to be encouraged.

> Ask God to encourage Christian workers to keep up the good work, even when the work is long and hard. What they do honors God and makes the world a better place.

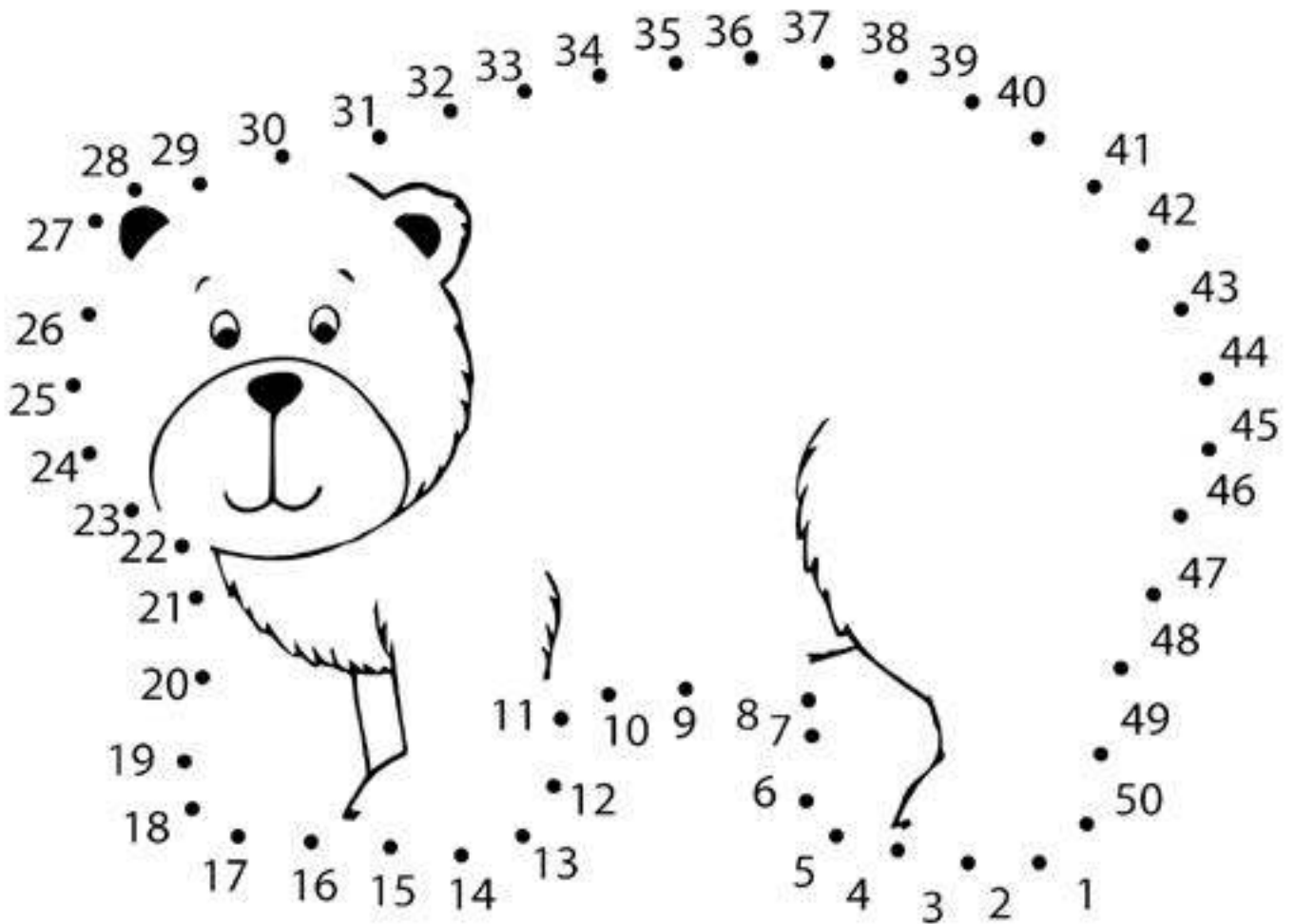
> Join with me in praying Paul’s prayer. In the Bible, he was praying for the Christians in Ephesus, a city in Turkey. Today, we are praying for all Christians in Turkey.

“I always pray to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ—to the glorious Father. I pray that He will give you a spirit that will make you wise in the knowledge of God—the knowledge that He has shown you.”

— Ephesians 1:17, ICB

> Years ago, Christian workers arrived in Turkey from other countries to tell people about Jesus and to help start churches for them. Now these new, local believers have grown up in their faith and are learning to become church leaders too. Pray that God will help them to lead wisely.

Week 3 Activity: Connect the Dots



04

Week 4: May 22–28, 2022

“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper. He will give you this Helper to be with you forever. The Helper is the Spirit of truth. ... He lives with you and He will be in you.”

—John 14:16–17, ICB



Week 4 Prayers



- > Christian workers who have moved away from home to serve God somewhere else are glad to have a coach who makes sure they have what they need to do their work well. Pray that God will help the coaches know exactly what the workers need.
- > Christian workers sometimes grow weary and the work can be really hard. Ask God to encourage these workers in Turkey and give them new energy and excitement so they can keep working hard. There are so many people who still need to know about God’s love and forgiveness.
- > Pray for God to remind local believers in Turkey that they have family members who don’t know about Jesus. They can be the ones to tell them about Him!
- > Many things happening in Turkey can make many of its people feel sad. Ask God to use these things to show them that His love can bring joy and hope in their lives, even if things stay the same.
- > Do you know how God grows His family in our world? Usually, one Christian tells another person about Jesus. That’s it! If that person invites Jesus to be their Savior, their faith grows, and one day that person tells someone else about Jesus. That’s why it’s so important to talk with your friends or sister or neighbor about Jesus’ love and about your own faith in Him. Pray that Christians in Turkey talk to others about their faith in Jesus.
- > Pray that God’s people in Turkey would be always watching, waiting, and expecting Him to do mighty things in their nation!
- > Join me in praying that all Christians in Turkey will read the Bible to learn what God wants them to do, then obey His teaching every day.

“So you must fully obey the Lord our God. You must follow all His laws and commands. You must continue to obey in the future as you do now.”

— 1 Kings 8:61, ICB

Week 4 Activity: Turkish-style Eggs Recipe

Turkish Style Eggs (Cilbir) - Yields 2-3 servings

3 cloves garlic, peeled and minced, or to taste
1 ½ cups plain yogurt
1 pinch salt
1 quart water
1 tablespoon vinegar
1 teaspoon salt
6 eggs
2 tablespoons butter
1 teaspoon paprika, or to taste



Directions

Step 1

In a small bowl, combine the garlic, yogurt and pinch of salt; mix well.

Step 2

In a large saucepan or stockpot, combine water, vinegar and 1 teaspoon salt; bring to a boil over high heat. When the water is boiling hard, reduce the heat and gently break the eggs into the water, spacing them well apart. Cook until the whites have set over the yolks, immediately remove the eggs with a slotted spoon and place on a serving dish.

Step 3

Melt butter in a small skillet or saucepan. Stir in paprika. Pour yogurt sauce over eggs and top with paprika butter. Your cilbir is ready!

Week 5 Prayers



- > Pray the message of Jesus spreads throughout ten important cities in Turkey: Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Bursa, Adana, Gaziantep, Konya, Antalya, Kayseri and Mersin. These city names may be hard to pronounce, but God knows exactly where they are!
- > There are towns and whole provinces in Turkey with no churches at all and very few people who believe in Jesus. Pray God provides trustworthy mentors to help them grow in their faith and that they tell their friends and family about Jesus.

- > We've reached the end of another month and another country. Thank you for praying for Turkey. We can trust that God heard our prayers and is working on behalf of the people of Turkey. Let's thank God for what we have learned about Turkey and the needs of its people. Also, thank God for what you have learned about Him during this month.

I'd love to hear from you. See my email address on page 3. Next month we will focus on Thailand.
—Lucinda

Resources

Joshua Project has a tremendous amount of information about every country. This link will take you to Turkey.
<https://joshuaproject.net/countries/TU>

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>

For more Jesus Film Project prayer resources—including access to each month's Family Prayer Guide—point your phone's camera app here:



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.

