

# Family Guide

August 2023  
Iran



*"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



# A One-Year Prayer Adventure!

Using this handy family guide, we will travel to a faraway country every month, learn about its people and culture and pray for them. We will focus on a different least-reached country in every guide. There are 12 family guides covering 12 countries in 2023—one for every month.

Why do we call these countries “least reached”? Many of the people in these countries have never heard about Jesus, or it’s difficult for them to hear about Him. Even though you won’t get on a plane to each country, when you pray, you join our adventure—our mission to make a difference in the lives of the people in each country.

The best part is you’ll always know what to pray for. This family guide gives you a prayer request for every day of the week. Moms, dads and kids everywhere will be praying for the same thing together too. Let’s get started by learning about this month’s country.

# WELCOME TO Iran!



The Islamic Republic of Iran was established in 1979 following the Iranian Revolution. The vast majority of the population follow Islam, and the nation's 84 unreached people groups 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 churches to be started within reach of every person.



Iran is the second largest country in the Middle East. It shares borders with 7 countries: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkmenistan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkey and Iraq.

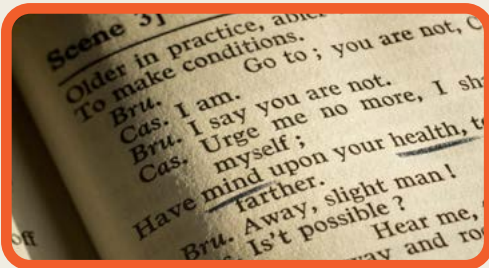
# Fun Facts About Iran



Iran used to be called Persia. In 1972, in honor of the 2500th year of the Persian Empire, construction began on the Azadi Tower.



One of the main goods that Iran sells to the world is caviar, or fish eggs, an extremely expensive delicacy. Iran gets its caviar from a fish in the Caspian Sea called beluga sturgeon. Beluga sturgeon can reach a length of 15-feet-long, weigh nearly 3,000 pounds (that's as much as a car!) and produce the most sought-after caviar. Have you ever eaten caviar? Would you like to try it?



Farsi, also known as Persian, is the official language of Iran. It is one of the oldest languages still spoken in a form very close to the original. Persians can read writings from over 1,500 years ago with less difficulty than an English speaker reading Shakespeare. Have you ever read one of Shakespeare's plays? Ask your parents to look up a passage from a Shakespeare play to experience how challenging it can be to understand Shakespeare's words.



The national instrument of Iran is the tar. Tradition says that when played this multi-stringed instrument calms listeners and makes them sleepy.



Do you remember the story of Daniel in the lion's den? That story happened in Persia, which is Iran today. Daniel was cast into the lions' den because he prayed to God instead of to the Persian king. But after Daniel was miraculously rescued by God from the lions, King Darius changed things. He said: "I am making a new law. This law is for people in every part of my kingdom. All of you must fear and respect the God of Daniel" (Daniel 6:26, International Children's Bible). You can read Daniel 6 in the Bible for the whole story.

## Ready to pray for the people of Iran?

Thank you for joining us on this adventure as we visit a least-reached country each month. This month we are “journeying” to Iran.

Many of our requests each month talk about people experiencing Jesus’ love and forgiveness. Jesus Film Project’s mission is for everyone everywhere to have a chance to hear about Jesus and His love, and have the opportunity to know Him personally. We do that by working with many followers of Jesus, whoever and wherever they are in the world.

Have you ever told Jesus that you want to accept His gift of love and forgiveness? If you haven’t already, take a moment to read through this webpage to learn how: [How to Know God Personally](#). By taking the type of steps explained on this webpage we can recognize that He forgives us and start to change the way we live. We can decide to live in a way that shows we’re thankful for what Jesus did for us.

Did you pray the prayer on the webpage? It’s common to wonder if what we prayed for really worked or made a difference. Ask a parent to go through it with you to help make sure you understand. Asking Jesus to come into our lives is a one-time act. But telling God that you are sorry about new sins (when we disobey God) is an ongoing process and we’ll have to do it regularly. It’s called confessing our sins. But don’t worry. He doesn’t leave us when we do wrong. Talking to God about what we’ve done wrong helps us maintain a close relationship with Him.

*“But if we confess our sins, He will forgive our sins. We can trust God. He does what is right. He will make us clean from all the wrongs we have done.”*

– 1 John 1:9, ICB

God sent Jesus to pay the penalty for sin for everyone in the whole world. Is there someone—a family member, friend or classmate—you can share this truth with?

As you pray for the requests in this guide, remember to thank God for the forgiveness He has given you. Praying for others reminds us of what God has done for us.

Your 2023 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. I’d love to hear from you!  
[prayer@jesusfilm.org](mailto:prayer@jesusfilm.org)



# 01

Week 1: August 1-7, 2023

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

— Psalm 86:9, ICB



## Week 1 Prayers



### ■ Day 1

If you could gather all Iranians into groups of 100 people, only one person in each group would say they know about Jesus. The other 99 would know nothing about Him! There are a lot of people in Iran who haven't heard about Jesus' great love yet. Ask God to make a way for all people in Iran to hear about His love for them.

### ■ Day 2

Every Sunday millions of Iranians meet in secret to worship God. Please pray that all of Iran will discover Jesus, and that believers can praise His name out in the open!

### ■ Day 3

People don't always keep the promises they make. Pray that Iranians realize that the Lord honors every promise He makes, and that their hearts can trust Him.

### ■ Day 4

One town in Iran hasn't recorded a single birth for the past 18 years! Please ask the Lord to establish many healthy marriages and families in this area and in the rest of the country.

### ■ Day 5

Today we are praying this verse for every Christian in Iran.

*“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 Christians in Iran 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.

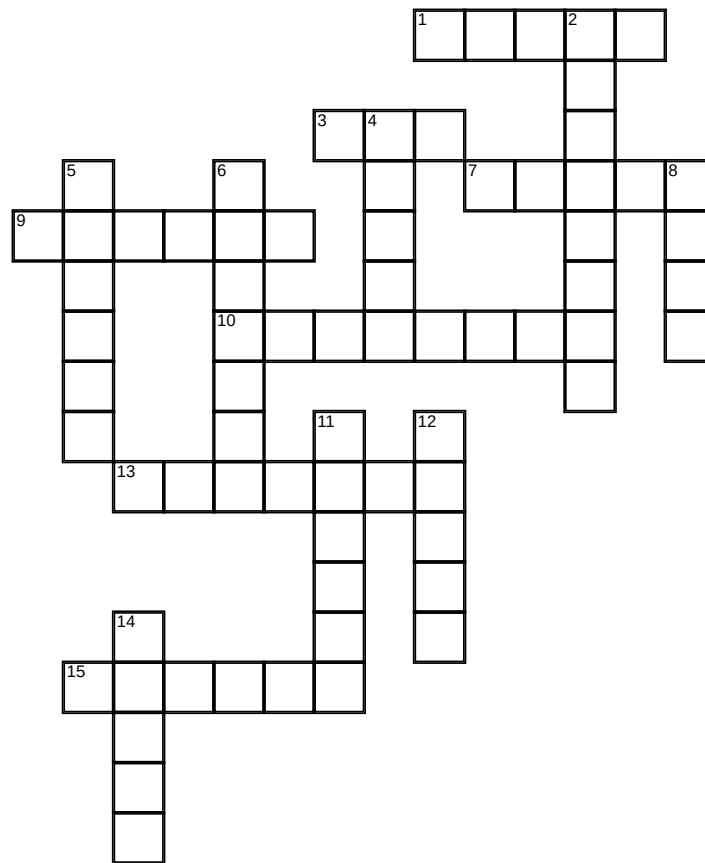
### ■ Day 6

Lord Jesus, shine Your light in the hearts of those who don't know You, so that they will come to know You—the way, the truth, and the life.

### ■ Day 7

People from a country called Afghanistan, which is just across the border from Iran, are going to Iran to find a better and more peaceful life. Pray that they find the kind of peace only Jesus can give.

# Week 1 Activity: Crossword



## Across

- 1 The number of countries that border Iran.
- 3 National instrument of Iran
- 7 Official language
- 9 Iran is a big producer of this product made of fish eggs.
- 10 A country that borders Iran that we prayed for in June.
- 13 To ask for forgiveness
- 15 What Iran used to be called

## Down

- 2 \_ , everywhere. Jesus Film Project's mission.
- 4 \_ Tower was built to celebrate 2,500 years of the Persian Empire.
- 5 King Darius threw \_ in the lion's den
- 6 \_ Sea where the fish lives that is used for Caviar
- 8 Name of this month's country.
- 11 \_ sturgeon is the fish that produces the most sought-after Caviar.
- 12 Majority religion of this country
- 14 He died to pay the penalty for our sins

## WORD LIST:

AZADI  
BELUGA  
CASPIAN  
CAVIAR

CONFESS  
DANIEL  
EVERYONE  
FARSI

IRAN  
ISLAM  
JESUS  
PAKISTAN

PERSIA  
SEVEN  
TAR

# 02

Week 2: August 8-14, 2023

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

– 1 Kings 8:60, ICB



## Week 2 Prayers



### ■ Day 8

Pray that the Lord will protect the nation of Iran from all evil. May people make good choices and desire to live in a way that follows God’s truth.

### ■ Day 9

Pray that whole families throughout Iran experience Jesus’ love and forgiveness.

### ■ Day 10

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 Iran. 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

### ■ Day 11

Ask the Lord to help the government provide a safe living environment for all its citizens.

### ■ Day 12

Many people in Iran are so discouraged that they harm themselves and their family by making bad choices. Pray that they ask Jesus for help. He can bring them joy and hope even when their life is hard.

### ■ Day 13

Some adults in Iran don’t have a job, which they need to pay for food and necessary things. Please ask the Lord to help them find jobs. Pray, too, that they discover that the Good Shepherd, Jesus, can meet their greatest needs.

### ■ Day 14

Ask God to help Iranians receive a fair amount of money for their work so they can provide for their families.



## Week 2 Activity: Coloring Page



*“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 3 Prayers



### ■ Day 15

Because of the internet, the good news of Jesus can reach people in faraway places. Pray for the internet to connect every village so people everywhere can know Jesus.

### ■ Day 16

Pray for students in Iran to be able to learn about Jesus at school. Ask God to help each student discover who Jesus is and choose to follow Him.

### ■ Day 17

Many Iranians are upset about things happening in their country. They have restrictions that make many of their lives difficult. 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

Ask Jesus, who is the light of the world, to shine brightly in the hearts of the people living in Iran so that they choose to follow Him.

### ■ Day 19

Have you ever ridden on a bumpy dirt road or one that is full of mud? That makes travel very difficult. Some roads are like that in Iran. Ask the Lord for better roads so that God’s message of hope can spread throughout Iran!

### ■ Day 20

Join us in praying this prayer written by Paul. In the Bible, he was praying for the Christians in Ephesus. Today, we are praying for Christians in Iran.

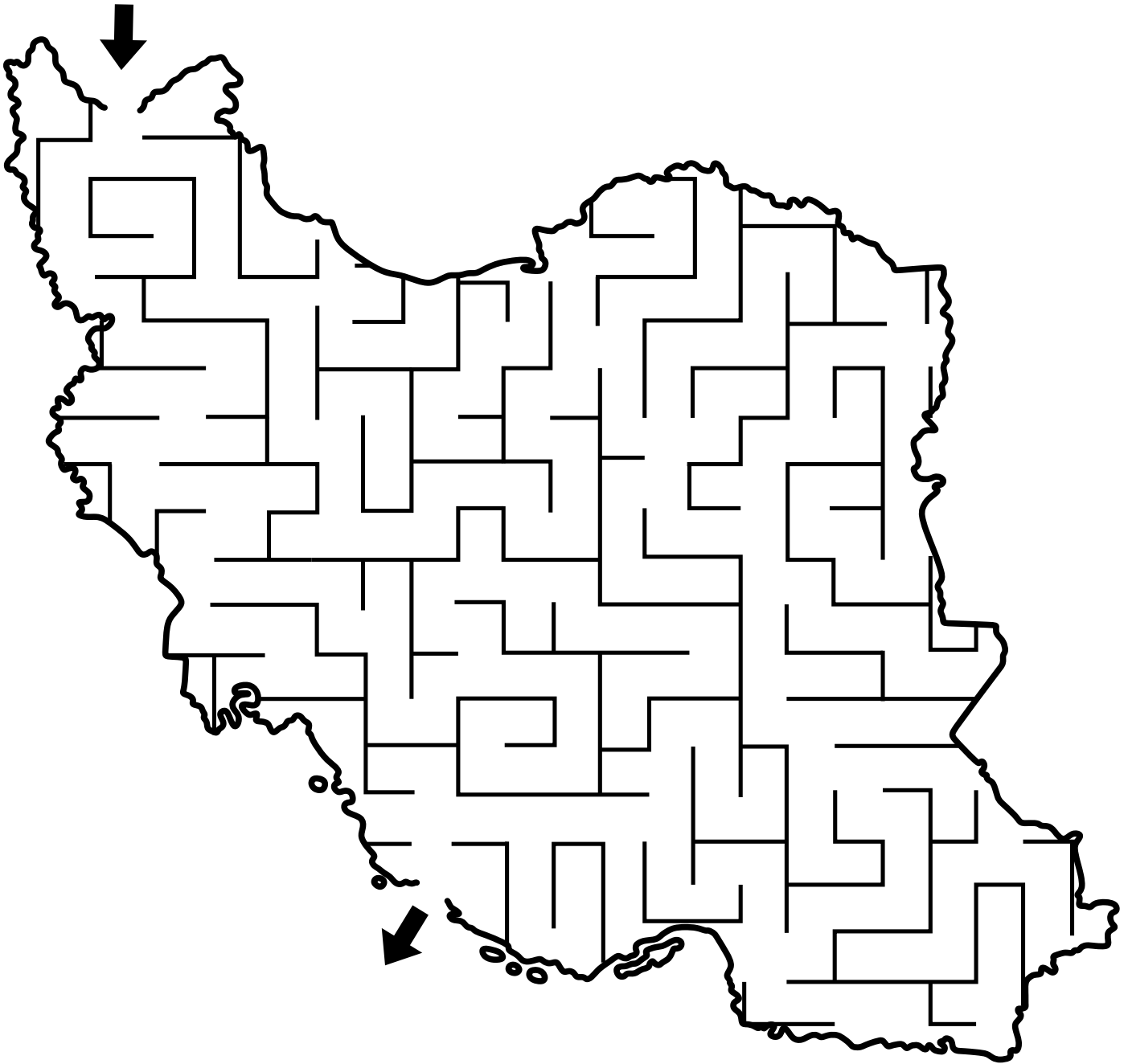
*“I always pray to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ—to the glorious Father. I pray that He will give you a spirit that will make you wise in the knowledge of God—the knowledge that He has shown you.”*

— Ephesians 1:17, ICB

### ■ Day 21

Please pray that the needs of the disabled and sick would be met and that they would be cared for. Pray they would desire to know the Lord who loves them and laid down His life for them.

## Week 3 Activity: Iran Maze



*“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 4 Prayers



### ■ Day 22

Iran is experiencing major water pollution problems. Ask the Lord for wisdom for its leaders so that they are able to fix this and other big problems which greatly affect the health of the Iranian people. Ask Jesus to draw people to Himself, the only source of living water.

### ■ Day 23

Join us in praying that all Iranian Christians will read the Bible to learn what God wants them to do and 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

### ■ Day 24

Pray that many people in Iran will see gospel messages on social media and want Jesus in their lives.

### ■ Day 25

Pray that the leaders of Iran would respect the Lord and His ways. Help them to understand they need God’s wisdom and strength to lead their nation well.

### ■ Day 26

Many Iranians travel to nearby countries during holidays and vacation times and get to hear the good news of Jesus from Christians while they are there. Pray that the truth they hear will cause them to believe in Him.

### ■ Day 27

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 new language so they can clearly communicate with their neighbors in their heart language.

### ■ Day 28

Please pray for safe living and working conditions for all people in Iran. Pray that people would see God’s goodness through His provision of their needs.

## Week 4 Activity: Word Search

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

### WORD LIST:

AZADI

BELUGA

CASPIAN

CAVIAR

CONFESS

DANIEL

EVERYONE

FARSI

IRAN

ISLAM

JESUS

PAKISTAN

PERSIA

SEVEN

TAR



## Week 5 Prayers

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### ■ Day 29

A team of people is working on a short film specifically for Iranians who may misunderstand Jesus and what Christianity is all about. These beliefs may keep them from believing in Jesus. Pray that Iranians will see this film and choose to put their faith in Jesus.

### ■ Day 30

Those in Iran who are poor often end up owing money to people who treat them unfairly. May they find help from trustworthy and fair sources and see God as the giver of all good things and trust Him to 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 been invited 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.  
<https://joshuaproject.net/countries/IR>
  - ▶ Prayercast has great prayer videos.  
<https://www.prayercast.com/iran.html>
  - ▶ 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 2,000 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—visit the prayer page on the Jesus Film Project website.  
[jesusfilm.org/pray](https://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.



This family guide is part of For the Least Reached: A Year of Prayer—a one-year prayer initiative created by Jesus Film Project. It's a great way for families to pray together for countries and people in the world who still don't know love, hope and forgiveness in Jesus. A new family guide is available every month.

Learn more at [jesusfilm.org/pray](https://jesusfilm.org/pray).

