

Family Guide

December 2023
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 1995



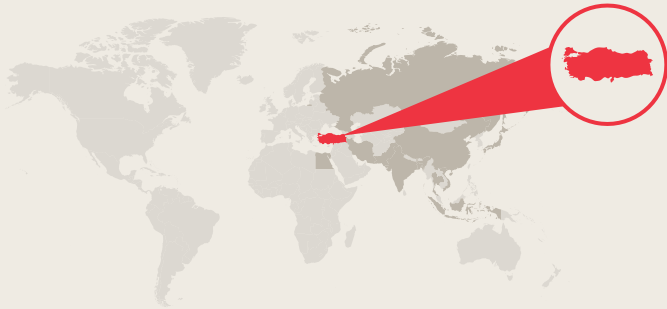
A One-Year Prayer Adventure!

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 Turkey!



The seven churches that John wrote to in the Book of Revelation are all located in Turkey. The cities of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodecia, where these churches were located, still exist in at least some form in modern day Turkey.



This month we will pray for a country that spans two continents: Turkey! The city of Istanbul lies on both the east and west sides of the Bosphorus strait, meaning it rests in both Europe and Asia. See arrow in the map above.

Fun Facts About Turkey



Followers of Jesus were first called Christians in Antioch, Turkey, according to Acts 11:26.



Turkey was the first to import tulips, coffee and cherries to Europe.



Turquoise means "Turkish stone." The beautiful mineral came to Europe from the Orient via Turkey and is one of the oldest gemstones in history.



The city of Istanbul spans two continents: Europe and Asia. Only 5% of the country is in Europe. The other 95% is in Asia.



Turkey is known for its delicious sweets, like baklava and Turkish Delight.

Ready to pray for the people of Turkey?

Eastern Turkey is home to the famous Mount Ararat. Although Genesis 8 tells us that Noah's Ark came to rest on one of the mountains of Ararat, experts are not sure if this is the same mountain range mentioned in the Bible story. While the remains of Noah's Ark are still waiting to be recovered, we can be sure that the Word of God is true.

This month marks the end of our "ACTS" study. We started looking at this method of prayer in October with "Adoration," or as I call it, "Celebrating God." Next came "Confession," and we learned to turn to God for forgiveness. Last month we focused on "Thanksgiving," taking time to give thanks to God. Did you find a time to give God thanks every day?

"S" is the last letter of the ACTS prayer. It stands for "Supplication." This word may be new to you. The main part of this word means "to ask humbly." We should have a humble, or respectful attitude when we go to God in prayer to ask for something. God is all powerful so He can do anything! But He is also good and kind, so He will say "no" if we ask for something that isn't good for us.

As we pray each day for a request for Turkey, we are "interceding," which is another word for asking. Even though God knows everything, He wants us to ask, intercede and make supplication for others—like in this packet—for our family and friends, and for ourselves.

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



01

Week 1: December 1–7, 2023

*“He is the One who makes the mountains.
He creates the wind.
He makes His thoughts known to man.
He changes the dawn into darkness.
He walks over the mountains of the earth.
His name is the Lord God of heaven’s
armies.”*

– Amos 4:13, International Children’s Bible



Week 1 Prayers



■ Day 1

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!

■ Day 2

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.

■ Day 3

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.

■ Day 4

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.

■ Day 5

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

■ Day 6

Pray this for every Christian in Turkey:

“Do not worry about anything. But pray and ask God for everything you need. And when you pray, always give thanks. And God’s peace will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. The peace that God gives is so great that we cannot understand it.”

– Philippians 4:6–7, ICB

■ Day 7

A few months ago there was a terrible earthquake in Turkey. The earthquake destroyed many homes, and many people died. The people who survived have many needs. Praise God that there are Christian believers nearby who are bringing help to those who need it. May the hearts of the survivors be open to the good news of Jesus.

Week 1 Activity: Matching

For the Least Reached End of Year Matching Game

Match the clue with its country by putting the correct letter in the box! One item from the first column matches only one item from the second column.

Hint: You can find the answers by looking in the [family prayer guides from 2023!](#)

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Origami is from this country. | a. Pakistan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Adoration can also be called this. | b. China |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. The pyramids are in this country. | c. Thanksgiving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Confession leads to this. | d. Twelve |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Turquoise, "Turkish stone", came to Europe from this country. | e. Russia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6. People from this country celebrate the Year of the Rabbit. | f. Iran |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7. How many countries have we prayed for in 2023? | g. Egypt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8. The story of Daniel in the Lion's Den took place in this country. | h. India |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Which country now has the most people? | i. Japan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Which country has Siberian Tigers? | j. Celebrating God |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11. What does the "T" stand for in the ACTS prayer method? | k. Turkey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12. The Snow Leopard is common in this country. | l. Forgiveness |

Answer Key
1! 2j, 3g, 4l, 5k, 6b, 7d, 8f, 9h, 10e, 11c, 12a

02

Week 2: December 8-14, 2023

“Then I looked, and there was a great number of people. There were so many people that no one could count them. They were from every nation, tribe, people, and language of the earth. ...”

— Revelation 7:9, ICB



Week 2 Prayers



■ Day 8

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.

■ Day 9

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.

■ Day 10

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 other countries permission to visit or even to live there to share God’s love with its people.

■ Day 11

Pray that Christian gatherings in Turkey would follow Paul’s instructions from this Bible verse:

“Let the teaching of Christ live in you richly. Use all wisdom to teach and strengthen each other. Sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” — Colossians 3:16, ICB

■ Day 12

By looking at the map of Turkey here in this Family Guide, you can see that the country is a kind of bridge that connects two big masses of land, called continents. Many people use Turkey as a route to escape their home country because they are afraid to stay. People who escape their home countries this way are called refugees. Some refugees make Turkey their new home country; others just pass through it. Ask God to show His churches in Turkey how they may show Jesus’s love, compassion and friendship to these people.

■ Day 13

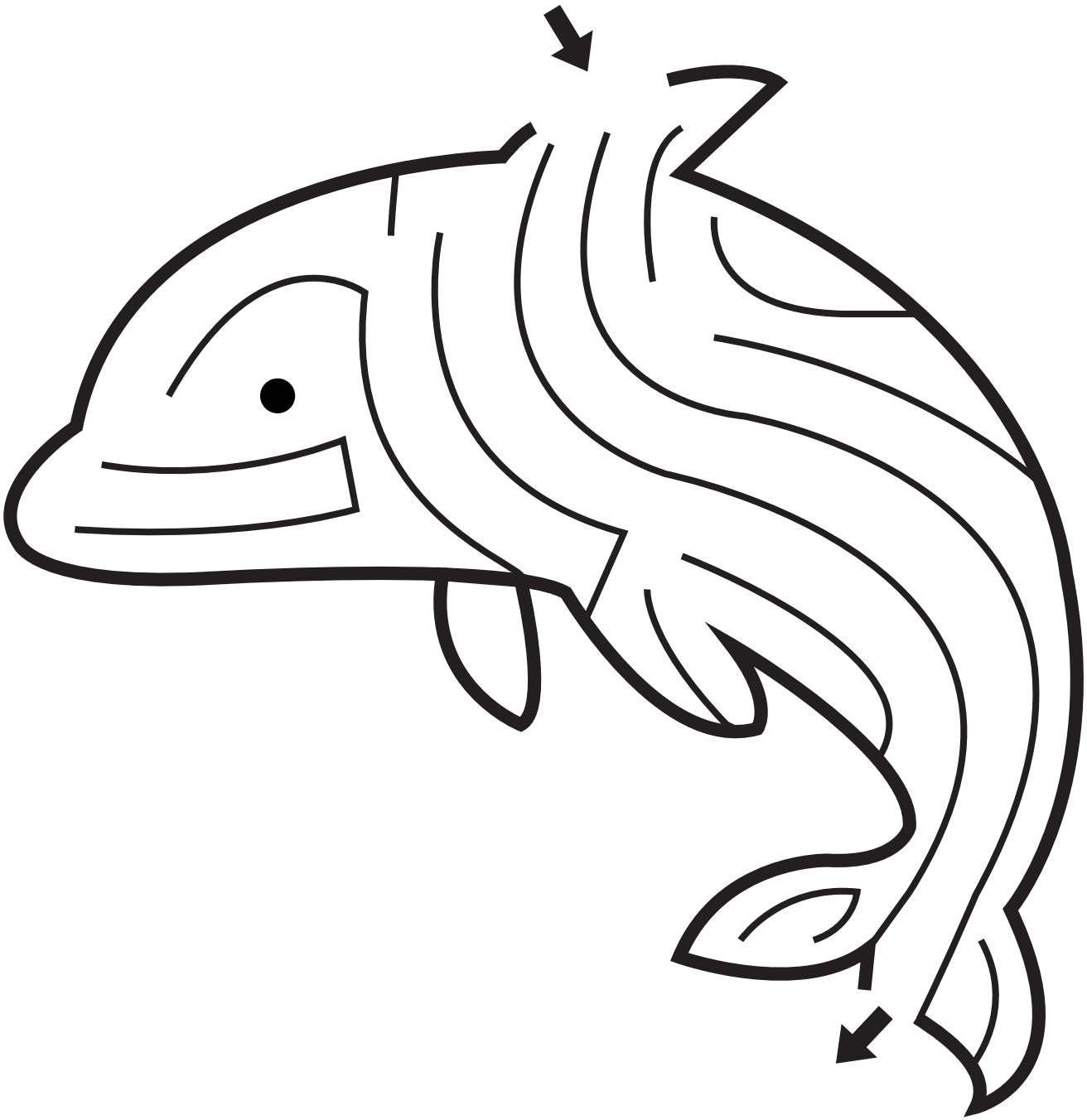
The people who make heart language Bibles and Christian videos (we’ll call them “makers”) are usually not the ones who take those tools to Turkey and other places so that people can hear about Jesus in their heart language (we’ll call these people “takers”). If the makers didn’t make, then the takers 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.

■ Day 14

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

Week 2 Activity: Maze



“The Father has loved us so much! He loved us so much that we are called children of God. And we really are His children...”

– 1 John 3:1, ICB



Week 3 Prayers



■ Day 15

Marriage is meant to be a blessing to a man and a woman. Like a lot of good things, marriage can sometimes be hard work. It makes sense to find out what God wants marriages to be like, since marriage was His idea in the first place. He knows best, so each woman can be the best wife to her husband, each man the best husband to his wife, and together they can be the best parents to their kids. Pray that men and women in Turkey will seek what God’s Word says about marriage and about loving each other as God would want them to. And remember to pray for your mom and dad, too.

■ Day 16

Pray that God’s people in Turkey would be always watching, waiting and expecting Him to do mighty things in their nation!

■ Day 17

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.

■ Day 18

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.

■ Day 19

Taking time to thank God is an important part of prayer. We show God how grateful we are when we spend time telling Him what we are thankful for. Let’s pray that the Christians in Turkey would be thankful to God as this verse describes:

“Thank the Lord because He is good. His love continues forever. ...You are my God, and I will thank You. You are my God, and I will praise Your greatness. Thank the Lord because He is good. His love continues forever.”
– Psalm 118:1, 28–29, ICB

■ Day 20

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.

■ Day 21

Three Christian films (*Magdalena*, *LUMO: The Gospel of Mark*, and *JESUS*) will be broadcast during Christmas week on 20 TV stations in Turkey. Please pray for ten million people to watch these films and for the viewers to visit the listed website to find out more about following Jesus.

Week 3 Activity: Craft

How To Make A Tulip From Pipe Cleaners

Although this pipe cleaner craft does not need hot glue, it can be tricky to hold the bunch of pipe cleaners while you wind another one. Don't give up! The pipe cleaner flower you'll create will be beautiful!

Age: 6+

Materials

Five red pipe cleaners
One green pipe cleaner

Method

Step One

Cut four of your red pipe cleaners into thirds. Fold each piece in half.

Step Two

Line the folded red pieces up so that all of the folds are at the bottom and place the green pipe cleaner somewhere in the middle. Bunch them all together with the green in the middle.

Step Three

Use the final red pipe cleaner to bind together the pieces. Start around a third of the way from the bottom (folded ends up). Keep winding until they're tightly bound.

Step Four

Bend each folded pipe cleaner end upwards so that the wound piece is in the center. Now shape each petal by slightly pinching it inwards.



*“People everywhere will remember
and will turn to the Lord.
All the families of the nations
will worship Him.
This is because the Lord is King.
He rules the nations.”*

– Psalm 22:27–28, ICB



Week 4 Prayers



■ Day 22

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 siblings or neighbors about Jesus’ love and about your own faith in Him. Pray that Christians in Turkey talk to others about their faith in Jesus.

■ Day 23

Pray for Turkish people to go to the Lord in prayer even when they face many challenges. May they discover the beautiful promise of Jesus in Matthew 11:28–30, *“Come to Me, all of you who are tired and have heavy loads. I will give you rest. Accept My work and learn from Me. I am gentle and humble in spirit. And you will find rest for your souls. The work that I ask you to accept is easy. The load I give you to carry is not heavy”* (ICB).

■ Day 24

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 Christians to be good managers of what God provides and to trust Him for all their needs.

■ Day 25

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 up their good work. There are so many people who still need to know about God’s love and forgiveness.

■ Day 26

Many 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 those beliefs and have questions about what they’ve been taught. Pray the true God will lead them to clear answers in the Bible.

■ Day 27

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.

■ Day 28

There are things about Turkey’s government and leadership that make many of its people feel sad and hopeless. Ask God to use this hard situation to draw people to Himself.

Week 4 Activity: Coloring
Monk Seal





Week 5 Prayers



■ Day 29

When students go to college, they learn new facts and skills, but their classes do not teach about the God of the Bible. God wants students to hear His good news and to trust Him. He also wants His followers to grow in important ways—in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Pray that Turkish college students will meet Jesus, and for Christian friends to come alongside them to help them grow and to become more like Him.

■ Day 30

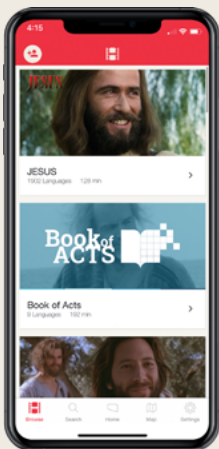
Christians in Turkey will soon be able to attend a conference that will help them grow in their faith. Pray that many people will go to the conference. Ask God to help them think and live more like Jesus, so they can train others to do it too.

■ Day 31

Lord Jesus, we thank You for giving us a chance to pray for Turkey 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 Turkish 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 Turkey.
<https://joshuaproject.net/countries/TU>
- ▶ Prayercast has great prayer videos.
<https://www.prayercast.com/turkey.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.jesusteam.org/watch/jesus.html/english.html>
- ▶ We also have multiple other films and short films available.
<https://www.jesusteam.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.
[jesusteam.org/pray](https://www.jesusteam.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.

