

Family Guide

Thailand



*“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 this year—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 Thailand!



Thailand is often called the “The Land of Smiles” because the people there are known for being friendly and welcoming. Thai people have ten or more different types of smiles, each with its own meaning. If you or I were to go visit, it would be very hard for us to understand the differences, but it is easy for other Thai people to understand. Each unique smile helps Thais communicate how they are feeling.



Fun Facts About Thailand



Thailand's floating markets remind us of a time when lakes, rivers and canals were the main ways people sold products from place to place. Today the country's floating markets sell everything from souvenirs to colorful fruits, vegetables and freshly grilled seafood on traditional longtail boats.



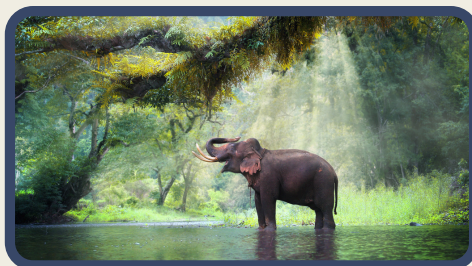
Christian missionaries (people who travel to other countries to share their beliefs) first arrived in Thailand in the early 1800s and are said to have improved the country's education and healthcare system.



Most Thai people follow a religion called Buddhism.



If all Thai people stood today in a line from youngest to oldest, the exact middle person in line (called the median) would be a little over 40 years old. That's higher than the median age for many other Southeast Asian countries. This is due to fewer Thai women having babies, and because many Thais now live to older ages.



The Thai elephant is the national animal of Thailand. Buddhists have great respect for elephants because of their strength. They also view them as full of wisdom and patience.

Ready to pray for the people of Thailand?

Have you ever wondered if God really hears us when we pray? In Psalm 66:19 we read, “But God has listened. He has heard my prayer” (International Children’s Bible). Knowing that God listens is very encouraging to me. It makes me want to talk with Him more.

We know that God hears us, but sometimes it’s normal to wonder if God answers our requests. When asking a friend a question, there are three kinds of answers we may get: yes, maybe or no. It’s the same when we ask something in prayer. God hears us, and in His wisdom He answers with what is best for us. Sometimes, it’s not the answer we want, but the Bible clearly teaches this in Romans 8:28: “We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love Him. They are the people God called, because that was His plan” (ICB).

When we pray for people far away we don’t always get to hear answers to our specific prayers. I believe God will show us how He answered our prayers when we are with Him in heaven. Until then, it is a privilege to pray, even if we don’t find out the answers until heaven.

Your 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



WEEK 1 REQUESTS



“All the earth should worship the Lord. The whole world should fear Him.”

– Psalm 33:8, ICB



Day 1

Most Thai people worship a god who is not the Bible’s living God. Pray Jesus would draw people to follow Him just as the two fishermen brothers (Peter and Andrew) did in the New Testament.

Day 2

Do you know anyone who speaks a language other than yours? Think about this: In Thailand, there are more than 70 groups of people who each speak a different language! Pray that every person in each group receives the message of Jesus in their heart language.

Day 3

Pray that Jesus followers across Thailand will love and obey Jesus every day. Ask God to help them grow in joy, coming together as a united family of believers.

Day 4

So many people use computers and cellphones that finding ways to share about Jesus using technology just makes sense. Pray that God will bring partners together to create ways for people to learn about Jesus online.

Day 5

When Jesus followers work as police officers or in other jobs that protect the people of Thailand, they sometimes get to tell others about God’s great love for them. That can help people feel safe too. Pray that many Jesus followers choose jobs in which they can protect people and comfort them with His love.

Day 6

Pray that Thai people who do not yet know Jesus would recognize Him for who He is and see their need for Him.

“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way. And I am the truth and the life. The only way to the Father is through Me.’”
– John 14:6, ICB

Day 7

Churches sometimes work together with other churches or groups to get a job done. That makes them partners. Working together helps Christians do a lot more than they could by themselves. Pray that Christian churches and groups will build good partnerships to get God’s work done.

Week 1 Activity: Thailand Word Search

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

WORD LIST

ADVENTURE

ANSWER

BUDDHISM

CHRISTIAN

ELEPHANT

FLOATING MARKET

HEARS US

HEAVEN

LONGTAIL BOATS

MISSIONARIES

THAILAND

WORSHIP

WEEK 2 REQUESTS



“For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son. God gave His Son so that whoever believes in Him may not be lost, but have eternal life.”

– John 3:16, ICB



□ Day 8

God sometimes allows suffering, and while it can be painful, we know that suffering can draw people closer to God. May people in Thailand who are suffering from illnesses seek help from God and get the care they need.

□ Day 9

A great majority of Thai people use websites like YouTube and Facebook. Pray that many will see what Christians post there. Pray more people can discover who Jesus really is and want to know more about Him.

□ Day 10

Certain Thai filmmakers make films that contain art, music and traditions that are familiar to the people groups who watch them. Why is this important to us? Because it means that filmmakers can make films about Jesus that really connect with Thai people’s hearts. Pray for this!

□ Day 11

Pray for students to invite Jesus to be their Savior and Lord. As they obey Him and learn to walk in His ways, He will guide them in what they are to do with their lives. God first makes us part of His family, and then He makes us partners in His work around the world.

□ Day 12

Thank you, Jesus, for sending your gospel message to many of Thailand’s people groups many years ago! Today, young people in these groups might like to have the Bible and other gospel tools in their own heart language. Pray these heart-language tools will be created soon and that young people will be just as excited about the good news of Jesus as their great-grandparents were.

□ Day 13

Using Scripture is a great way to pray for yourself, your family and friends—not just for people far away. Pray this for the people in your life and for every Christian in Thailand:

“You were raised from death with Christ. So aim at what is in heaven, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Think only about the things in heaven, not the things on earth.” – Colossians 3:1-2, ICB

□ Day 14

We can learn a lot from each other. For example, when a person learns a new way to grow vegetables that may be better (such as organic vegetables) and they share what they know with someone else, then both people can grow vegetables that are better for the land and the people eating them. Pray that people who have skills and resources to help others farm organically go and share it with Thai farmers who want to do it too.

Week 2 Activity: Village Coloring Page



WEEK 3 REQUESTS



“The Lord is not slow in doing what He promised—the way some people understand slowness. But God is being patient with you. He does not want anyone to be lost. He wants everyone to change his heart and life.”

— 2 Peter 3:9, ICB



□ Day 15

There are millions of people living in Thailand, and many of those people are younger than 14 years old! Many of these young people don't know about Jesus. Someone needs to tell them so that they can learn what makes Him so special. Lord Jesus, bring many Thai kids to Your churches, Christian schools, kids programs and outreaches where they can hear about You. Help them grow into strong, lifelong Jesus followers.

□ Day 16

God wants every Thai person to understand what Jesus did for them. For this to happen, we need Christians to go tell them. Let's pray for that.

“But before people can trust in the Lord for help, they must believe in Him. And before they can believe in the Lord, they must hear about Him. And for them to hear about the Lord, someone must tell them. And before someone can go and tell them, he must be sent. It is written, ‘How beautiful is the person who comes to bring good news.’” — Romans 10:14-15, ICB

□ Day 17

Every country, including Thailand, has people who need a lot of help and care. Those who are hungry, homeless, orphans or sick are examples of people in need. Pray for country leaders to find ways to protect and provide for these people. May Thailand's Christians bring praise to God by becoming the best they can be at caring for people.

□ Day 18

Pray that Christians and Christian workers are loving and careful in how they teach and talk about Jesus to people who believe in other gods.

□ Day 19

Pray for the people working on making Bibles, videos and other gospel tools in the heart languages of Thai people groups.

□ Day 20

In Thailand, some people are forced to work for no pay and do other harmful things. It's a sad thing when a person hurts another person by making them their slave like this. Teachers in Thailand are helping students and others recognize when they see signs of slavery. Pray that Jesus would protect those who are in danger of becoming slaves.

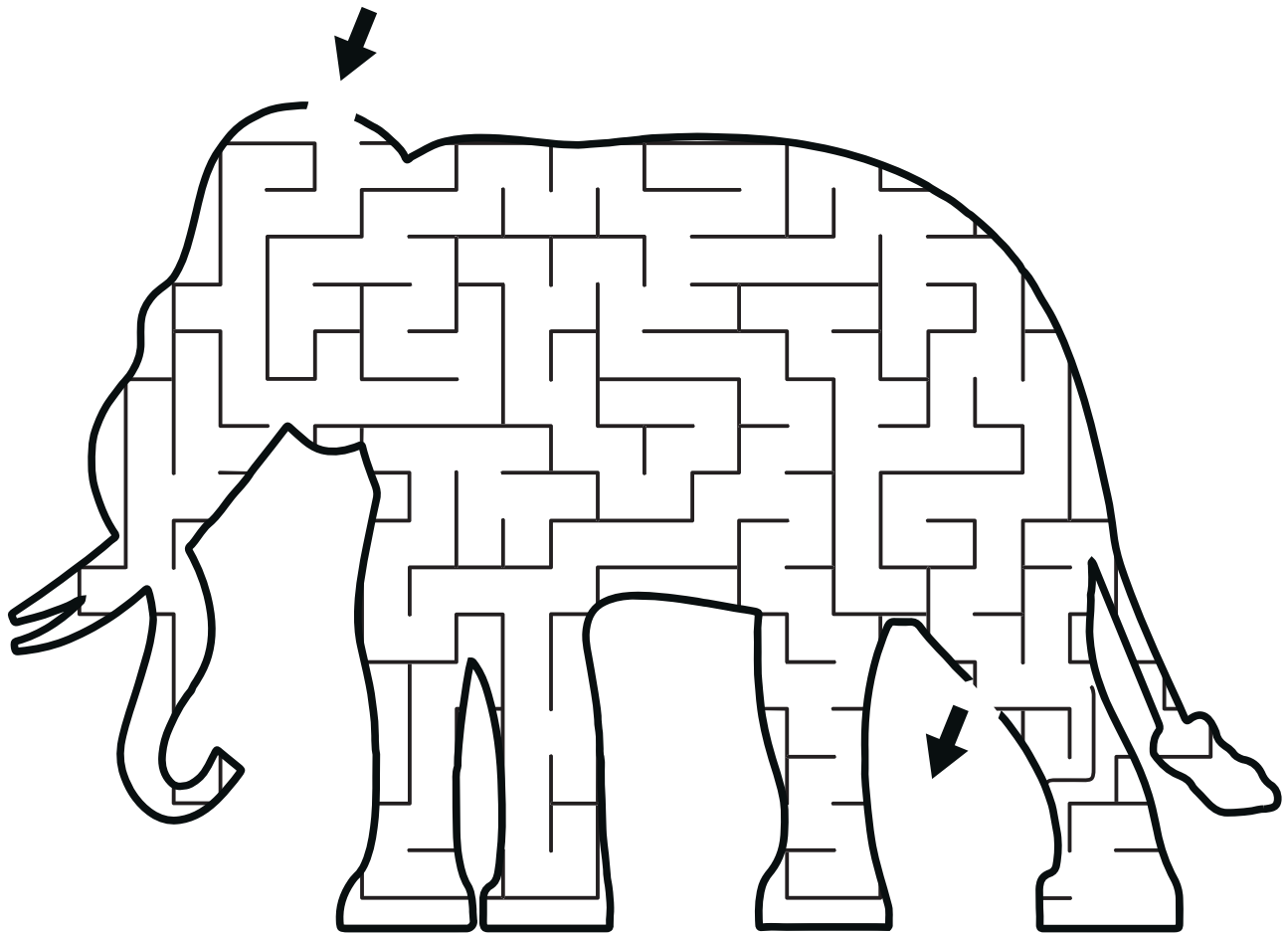
□ Day 21

Did you know that when a person puts his trust in Jesus and learns to walk in His ways, he is changed from the inside out?

A person who is usually anxious can feel peaceful. Anger can be replaced by calm. A dislike of someone can turn to love and understanding. A lying person can become more truthful. A careless person can become more responsible. A foolish person can become more teachable and wise. An unkind person can become kinder. A person who's been treated badly can forgive.

This is because God's Spirit lives inside His followers. The Holy Spirit is also called “the Helper” because He can empower God's followers to obey Him. Pray for Thai Christians to experience the power of the Holy Spirit changing their hearts. And pray that they would show others what God has done for them.

Week 3 Activity: Elephant Maze



WEEK 4 REQUESTS



“Come to Me, all of you who are tired and have heavy loads. I will give you rest.”

– Matthew 11:28, ICB



□ Day 22

If we were in the same room with 100 Thai people, we would probably meet about 95 who are Buddhist, four who are Muslim, and only one Christian. Pray that God would give all people—no matter what religion they know best—the desire to know the Bible’s God as their God.

□ Day 23

When someone is a slave, or enslaved, their life is sad and very hard. Pray for those who are enslaved, that they will get the help they need to get out of slavery. Pray each one will experience God’s love and will trust Him with their future.

□ Day 24

Every person who loves and obeys Jesus has the unique ability to love and act kindly toward everyone. Do you know why? It’s because Jesus gave His Spirit to live inside His followers to help them live rightly. Imagine that! He’s always there, always watching, always available to help them do what is right. Pray for Christians in Thailand and everywhere to choose to let Jesus’ helper, the Holy Spirit, help them love and show kindness to everyone even if others are unkind to us, and no matter how different they may be from us.

□ Day 25

Pray that parents in Thailand and in every country will love each other well and raise their children in love.

□ Day 26

Pastors and everyday Christians are learning to use their computers and phones as tools to tell Thai people about the message of Jesus. Pray that people will experience God’s love and care through the messages they see on their phones, and pray that these tools would help churches to grow.

□ Day 27

The Bible teaches us that Christians have an enemy (the devil) who wants to keep us from trusting God. God wants us to stay close to Himself and to let Him fight for us. Christians in Thailand need to remember this as well, so join me in praying God’s Word for them.

“Control yourselves and be careful! The devil is your enemy. And he goes around like a roaring lion looking for someone to eat. Refuse to give in to the devil. Stand strong in your faith. ...”

– 1 Peter 5:8-9, ICB

□ Day 28

Pray that Thai Christians would want to help change and create entertainment (like movies, books and videos) that are better for their minds and hearts and more honoring to God. Pray that God would draw people away from entertainment that can harm their relationship with Him.

Week 4 Activity: Trace John 3:16 in Thai

พระเยซูตรัสกับเขา
ว่า "เราเป็นทางนั้น
เป็นความจริง และ
เป็นชีวิต ไม่มีผู้ใด
มาถึงพระบิดาได้
นอกจากมาทางเรา

จอห์น 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way. And I am the truth and the life. The only way to the Father is through me."

— John 14:6, ICB

WEEK 5 REQUESTS



□ Day 29

As in many countries, many Thai people are suffering from depression and other mental health issues. Please pray that the Lord will heal them.

□ Day 30

Do you remember reading or hearing stories from the Bible about Jesus hanging around people who were outcasts—the poor, the homeless, the sick—those who other people looked down on? Many of Jesus’ friends were from among these people. He could have spent time with any group as He talked about His heavenly Father, but He often chose these types of people.

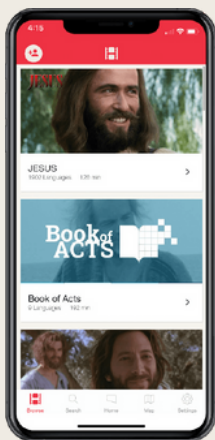
Pray that Christians in Thailand will talk about Jesus with teachers, leaders, neighbors, friends and business people. But pray they don’t forget to do the same with the poor, the rejected, or the outcasts. People who need Jesus can be found anywhere.

□ Day 31

Lord Jesus, we thank You for giving us a chance to pray for Thailand 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 Thai 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 Thailand:
joshuaproject.net/countries/TH
- ▶ Prayercast has great prayer videos.
prayercast.com/prayer-topic/thailand
- ▶ 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.
jesusfilm.org/watch/jesus.html/english
- ▶ We also have multiple other films and short films available: jesusfilm.org/watch
- ▶ 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



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.



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