

## Day 1: Pray for Revival

**Scripture:** *Read 2 Chronicles 7.*

**Key verse:** *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. —2 Chronicles 7:14*

A mighty, Holy Spirit-led revival is happening in the Middle East. Thousands upon thousands upon thousands of Muslims are turning to Jesus as their Savior! They are asking Him to forgive them for their sins, so they can live fully devoted to God.

What are some of the signs? Fervent prayers are being offered, and bold declarations of faith are being made in refugee camps, mountainous jihadi bases, mosques, Islamic schools, and in more homes than you can imagine.

But the subject of these prayers is different than what you might expect. Muslim prayers and commitments to revenge, violence, and radicalized Islam are giving way to something new and even more powerful. What are the prayers about?

If you were in the Middle East, you would hear the millions of people — yes, millions — giving honor, praise, and worship to Jesus every morning. Quiet whispers fill the air with thankfulness for a newfound love, forgiveness, mercy, and peace found only in a relationship with the Son of God.

There also are moments of silence when everyone listens for the guiding voice of the Holy Spirit. They wait for instructions, for wisdom, and for courage to radically live for Christ. From person to person, family to family, clan to clan, a new “Jesus Tribe” has sprung forth that is dedicated to giving up everything, going everywhere, and telling everyone the Good News!

**Take action:** *Spend a few minutes, right now, seeking the face of God on behalf of the lost in your family, your community, your nation and around the world. Pray for a revival that will turn the hearts of millions toward Jesus, so they will accept Him as their Lord and Savior.*

## Day 2: Making All Things New

**Scripture:** *Read Habakkuk 1.*

**Key verse:** *The Lord replied, “Look around at the nations; look and be amazed! For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn’t believe even if someone told you about it.” —Habakkuk 1:5, NLT*

“Harold” was a former imam and Al Qaeda terrorist leader, who used to murder “infidels” in the name of Allah. “We were taught to kill,” he explains. “Our ultimate goal was to purify the Earth of infidels and of their influence. This means that killing was expected; it was part of life. I killed many people: children, young girls, women and men.”

Harold had learned to hate the West — especially Christians. But that all changed when the savage bonds of Islam began to break. He started changing from the inside out.

“I realized one night that I could not continue this fighting,” the former terrorist recalls. “Then I had a dream about Jesus, and I walked over the mountains and back into my village. It was there that I met a Jesus Follower who helped me find my way.”

Harold studied Jesus and the Bible for four years before being baptized. Since then, he has lived for the Lord with the same radical commitment he had when serving Allah.

“There’s no forgiveness or eternal peace in Islam,” Harold insists. “The Son of the true God is rising in the Muslim world. For centuries, these nations were captured by the devil, but now the glory of God is covering them. A new nation is rising in the Earth. They call themselves ‘The Jesus Nation.’ We are the heritage of Christ and the Tribe of Jesus.”

His heart’s desire is to see Muslims everywhere know and worship Jesus as the Savior of the world. Harold’s testimony is an extraordinary example of how the love of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit can “make all things new” (Revelation 21:5), even the heart of a terrorist.

**Take action:** *Please pray for Muslims in Afghanistan and elsewhere to have a life-changing encounter with Jesus, like Harold did. Ask God to open their eyes to the deception of Islam and to the fullness of living in complete surrender to Christ.*

## Day 3: Dreams and Visions

**Scripture:** *Read Acts 2.*

**Key verse:** *“In the last days,” God says, “I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams.” —Acts 2:17, NLT*

God-given supernatural dreams and visions can shape the course of people’s lives and even alter history. Although these dreams are seemingly rare today, in the Bible this kind of revelation was commonplace. Stories about God’s people experiencing dreams, visions, and revelations can be found throughout the Old and New Testament. A God-given dream or vision can set the course of someone’s life, adjust the destiny of a tribe, or even shape the future of a nation.

Ibrahim is from a Yazidi tribe in northern Iraq. ISIS terrorists attacked their village and killed most of his family, including his children. Ibrahim and his wife managed to escape, spending 60 days hiding in the mountains until radical jihadists attacked again. He was shot twice and lost consciousness, but somehow—miraculously—he survived. Ibrahim woke up a week later in the care of a Christian rescue team and learned that his wife had been killed.

“I was very sad because of the pain and the loss of my family,” he remembers. “One night, I asked God to take me to be with him. That night, when I was sleeping, Jesus came to me in my dream, took me in his hands, and said, ‘You are healed, and you are chosen.’ Soon after that, early in the morning, a believer came to me, and we prayed. I was completely changed by the Holy Spirit. I was injured, but my pain was gone—not only from my body but also from my heart.”

Ibrahim accepted Jesus as Savior and says that, despite his incredible loss, “I am blessed by God. I no longer hold anything against anyone. I pray every day, ‘God, please send your holy power to ISIS people and change their hearts.’”

**Take action:** *Ask God to pour out His Spirit on Ibrahim and on persecuted men, women, and children everywhere. Pray for the world to see signs and wonders in the heavens above and on the earth below, as we wait impatiently for the “great and glorious day” (Acts 2:20) of Jesus’ return.*

## Day 4: A Convincing Message

**Scripture:** *Read Ephesians 1.*

**Key verse:** *I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. —Ephesians 1:16-17, NLT*

As part of his commitment to Islam, “Yakob” had chosen a sacrificial and minimalistic way of life to further devote himself to Allah and to the cause of jihad. Yakob says he was misguided and filled with the empty violence of a terrorist. But that all changed when he received a divine supernatural visitation from an angel who pointed him to Jesus!

That moment of revelation was a turning point in Yakob’s faith — a moment that so many other Muslims have experienced when they encountered the one true God. The dreams and visions are not, in themselves, the most memorable aspects. Rather, it is the consistent message within them that convince thousands and thousands to leave Islam and follow Christ.

Many of these dreams and visions involve an angelic being or one made of pure light that tells Muslims how to find out more about our Lord and Savior. In some cases, it was years before they left Islam and became radical Jesus Followers. But their dreams and visions were the catalysts that sent them toward a new spiritual freedom founded in the love and forgiveness of Christ.

Reports from Iraq, Syria and across the Middle East and Central Asia all point to dreams and visions being widespread and overwhelmingly convincing. Millions of Muslims have now seen that Jesus is more than a good man or a prophet. He is God in the flesh, and He came to save us all from our sins.

**Take action:** *Go to God and thank Him for the way He is moving in the hearts and minds of Muslims across the Middle East and Central Asia. Pray that those who have seen Jesus in a dream or vision, as Yakob did, would receive spiritual wisdom and grow in their knowledge of God.*

## Day 5: The Power of Prayer

**Scripture:** *Read James 5.*

**Key verse:** *The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. —James 5:16b, NLT*

Millions of Jesus Followers in the Middle East are praying for even the smallest flickering light to shine in the dark corners of Muslim-majority nations. Former Muslims are leading this movement of prayer, and a God-sized miracle is happening that will change nations.

These are not prayers *about* the Middle East; they are prayers *from* the Middle East. They're not authored by Americans, Canadians, Europeans, or Australians—all the prayers are offered by former Muslims who have found forgiveness and peace through Jesus. They are filled with faith, confidence, and a deep trust in God. Here are just a few of them:

*"I have bowed down tonight in front of You, God, asking for Your mercy, love, and protection. God, let the freshness of the Holy Spirit rest in our thoughts, rule in all Muslims' dreams, and conquer all our fears. God, cover all Muslims with your mercy. Make them faithful followers of Jesus Christ! Amen."* —Massoud from Iraq

*"Jesus, I'm praying on Your name for believers to be emboldened to share their faith wisely with those around them, and I'm praying for the Muslim women of my country to turn to you, O Lord."* —Sarai from Bangladesh

*"Lord, I have been rejoicing in Your blessings and affection ever since I became a Jesus Follower. God, Your glory is hidden from the Muslim ummah (people). Father, reveal Your love and kindness among all Muslims in the world. Show them Your matchless mercy and pure love, and bring them all on the way of peace and humbleness! Amen."* —Samir from Tajikistan

*"God, You know that I am from a Muslim background and now I am a Jesus Follower. I did not follow You in the past because I did not know the truth about Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. God, You sent Jesus Followers to my home to share the gospel with my family. This changed our hearts forever. God, in the same way I ask Your glory and mercy to come to all other Muslims who still do not have faith in Jesus Christ."* —Yakob from Kenya

**Take action:** *You can join Jesus Followers in the Middle East in praying for men, women and children to see the truth about Islam and boldly choose Christ. These former Muslims have shown us how to pray. Please take a few minutes to follow their example today.*

## Day 6: In Sunshine and in Rain

**Scripture:** *Read Psalm 46.*

**Key verse:** *God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. —Psalm 46:1, NLT*

Estefan is a Yazidi from Iraq. Yazidis are a religious minority mostly from the northern Kurdish region of the country. As non-Muslims, Estefan, his family, and his friends became targets of widespread persecution by ISIS, including kidnapping, torture, and even death. Now a Jesus Follower, he writes:

*“In Jesus’ name I am praying, God. You are the giver of life and of all we need. You are our bread. We praise You for Your heavenly kindness. There can be no famine while the bread of heaven endures. Help all the Yazidi people to never be forgetful of Your infinite kindness. God, thank You for saving us from ISIS, and for allowing us to choose Your kingdom. We will praise You in the rain and the sunshine, in the day and in the night. Forever we will praise You, Lord Jesus. Amen.”*

Some reports indicate that, in 2014, nearly a half million Yazidis fled ISIS violence and persecution in northern Iraq. Many of those men, women and children ran directly into the arms of Jesus Followers, who have provided food, water, shelter, and protection.

But in addition to having their physical needs met, thousands of Yazidis have received spiritual “food” as well. Members of the underground church in Iraq have shared the love, peace, and hope found in Jesus Christ and helped change lives, like Estefan’s, for eternity.

**Take action:** *When you read Psalm 46 today, take special notice of verse 10, “Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world.” May that be the prayer of Jesus Followers around the globe today and every day: that our heavenly Father, our refuge and strength, would reign over the earth and protect us in times of trouble.*

## Day 7: At All Cost

**Scripture:** *Read Job 13.*

**Key verse:** *God might kill me, but I have no other hope. I am going to argue my case with him. —Job 13:15, NLT*

Ahmed is short, older, distinguished-looking Arab, who often dresses in full, cultural regalia. When he speaks, everyone in the room is at attention. His “God Story” is amazing and heartbreaking.

*“I am a business man and a farmer in Iraq,” he says. “For many years, I have cared for my family, my sons and my business, but my faith was not important to me. For the past several years, my son spent most of his time traveling throughout our country telling other Muslims that Jesus is more than a prophet—that Jesus is God—and that He can forgive sins. I didn’t focus on his work or his words much. I have a big responsibility to manage our family’s business interests.*

*“Then, the Devil came to Iraq, and everything began to change. The ISIS terrorists began to destroy our villages, our homes, our families, and our way of life. I grew concerned for my own family but still did not turn my mind and heart to spiritual things.*

*“Then, one day, it happened. There was a knock on the door: An ISIS terrorist was there. He handed me the head of my son. What was I to do? I should be relaxing now and enjoying my life as a grandfather. Instead, I must finish the work my son started. I am now working full-time to share Jesus with every person in my country.”*

How many of us would be as bold and as brave as Ahmed in the face of such brutality and evil? Praise God that he did not shrink back and give up after losing his son to “the Devil.” Instead, he is determined to share the love of Christ with his entire nation, no matter what the price.

**Take action:** *Job lost everything and still trusted God to the point of death. Ahmed is boldly walking a similar path, telling others about Jesus regardless of what it costs him. Please pray for Ahmed’s protection and for so many Jesus Followers like him, who are risking their lives, day in and day out, for the sake of the cross.*

## Day 8: God's Big Picture

**Scripture:** *Read Philippians 2.*

**Key verse:** *Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names. —Philippians 2:9, NLT*

Woven into the fabric of every tribal culture in the Middle East is a deep loyalty and respect for authority. While American culture values a system based on equality, tribal cultures operate best when everyone understands their responsibility in light of the bigger picture. When persons in leadership are rightfully given their place of honor, the complexities of culture work smoothly, even in the most difficult of times.

Many of the current events in the Middle East over the past several years are actually about defending, protecting, and extending the honor of tribal leaders who, though residing outside the formal structure of government, exert great influence and authority in the region. In fact, the concepts of respect and honor are pervasive in the Muslim world.

Believe it or not, understanding the importance of honor has everything to do with the catalytic spread of the gospel in the Muslim world. Why? When the message of truth is conveyed within the context of honoring the Lord, recognizing His plan of salvation, and understanding that Jesus is God and not merely a prophet, the result is a deep reverence, love, loyalty, respect, and commitment to both receive the forgiveness of sins and radically follow the commands of Jesus wholeheartedly.

Apostle Paul fully explains that “bigger picture” in Philippians 2:9-11, “Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (NLT).

Across the Middle East, Jesus Followers are leaving behind a worldview that is fatalistic and flawed (Islam), as they turn to Christ, the only Son of the one, true God. With this realization comes a renewed loyalty to protect, defend, and honor the King of Kings—to expand a new nation for Jesus.

**Take action:** *Is every member of your “tribe” a Jesus Follower? If not, please take a few minutes to pray for unsaved loved ones right now. Also, ask God to expand the number of Jesus Followers in every tribe and every nation around the world. Let every knee bow and every tongue confess: “Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

## Day 9: Confronting the Devil

**Scripture:** *Read Matthew 4.*

**Key verse:** *“Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the LORD your God and serve only him.’” —Matthew 4:10, NLT*

A shocking question is being asked by Jesus Followers in the Middle East: “When will the Devil leave our nation?” That inquiry frames the entire battle against radical, Islamic extremism in something other than political, educational, or religious terms. Nor does it seek to define the horrific events of the few years as a struggle between good and evil. That question defines the fight for the very soul of the Middle East as a spiritual battle between the Devil and Jesus. For many, it is a matter of honor.

This sense of honor has given courage to thousands of volunteers who risk their lives every day in Iraq, Syria and elsewhere to share the true message of hope and forgiveness. From different sub-groups and ethnic backgrounds, they have united to become a new nation for Jesus. They live for the honor and glory of their Savior—the One who redeemed them from a life of revenge, violence, and spiritual darkness.

But, our brothers and sisters in Muslim-controlled nations want to know when Jesus Followers from around the world will mount a counter initiative of faith. When will “Western Christians” work to redeem the Middle East for its rightful Owner? This struggle is not merely about sharing the Good News with others. Jesus Followers know the name that makes the Devil tremble. The battle isn’t only about the power of the gospel to bring salvation to individuals. The question is about who’s going to join them in this important work.

The “Redeemed” must act to rescue people from evil by empowering the broken and hurting to live as a part of a new nation. This righteous “order” has a loving, saving God at the center of a worldview that impacts lives for eternity. Many of the workers bringing in this harvest of souls followed Satan before submitting their lives to Jesus. Now, they teach women, children, and youth to spend their lives for the honor of Christ. The Devil has no place or standing among them and will be cast out of their land through the efforts and faith of these Jesus Followers.

**Take action:** *Even Jesus was forced to confront the Devil. Satan tempted our Lord and Savior at one of the weakest points of His human existence. But we learn in today’s Scripture reading that when Jesus told Satan, “Get out ... the devil went away.” Do you need to tell the enemy to flee from some area of your life? If so, pray in Jesus name for that to happen right now. Also today, ask God to banish the Devil from the Middle East and to empower Jesus Followers to share His love, peace and hope with Muslims who desperately need to know the truth about Christ.*

## Day 10: “Night of Power,” Part I

**Scripture:** *Read Acts 1.*

**Key verse:** *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. —Acts 1:8, NLT*

Muslims believe that, during Ramadan, the month of holy fasting, there’s one night when the heavens are opened and Allah reveals himself to the faithful. This annual “Night of Power” occurs during one of the final 10 nights of Ramadan. Some one billion Muslims pray and fast, hoping to receive a fresh revelation from God and forgiveness of wrongdoing. Prayers on this night are said to be worth 1,000 months of prayer.

But what if Christians prayed with Muslims on the Night of Power? Instead of praying to “Allah,” believers could ask the one true God to reveal himself and His eternal Son, Jesus Christ, to followers of Islam through signs, wonders, miracles, and dreams? Below are prayers from former Muslims, asking God to use the Night of Power to reveal the truth about Himself to those still trapped in the Islamic faith.

*“God, on this Night of Power I ask Your pure love, Your everlasting power, and the power of Your Holy Spirit to fall on the Muslim ummah (people) all over the world. Open the hearts and eyes of every Muslim on earth so that they can see and feel as I can see and feel You, God. Amen.” —An unnamed brother from Turkmenistan*

*“Let the shining of the glory of Your great name enlighten the dark hearts of all Muslims and remove the darkness from their minds, hearts, thoughts, and actions. Then, they would turn toward Your peaceful way. Amen.” —Musa from Syria*

*“Tonight, on this Night of Power, again God, I am asking you to strengthen us against strong, evil 'nets' deployed everywhere on earth. Father, give us the power to bear our heavy burdens until we can again feel Your mercy and love. You are the Lord, and You are our every hope in difficult times. Now God, I'm asking for all terrorists in Afghanistan to choose You like I have.” —Jamaal from Afghanistan*

Jesus Followers in many Muslim-controlled nations risk persecution, imprisonment, and even death for their faith in Christ. As fellow believers, we have an obligation to stand with our brothers and sisters through prayer.

**Take action:** *It is important for Christians everywhere to join in prayer with the underground church in the Middle East. While the Muslim “Night of Power” can be a key focal point of our intercession, we need to ask the Holy Spirit to make His power known to followers of Islam every day of the year.*

## Day 11: “Night of Power,” Part II

**Scripture:** *Read Zechariah 4.*

**Key verse:** *“This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty.” —Zechariah 4:6, NIV*

In yesterday’s devotional, you learned about the Islamic “Night of Power,” which occurs every year during one of the final days of Ramadan. Jesus Followers with Muslim backgrounds see this Islamic holy night as their opportunity to ask the Lord to reveal Himself to family members, friends, neighbors, and others who seek, in vain, for revelation from a false god.

As nearly one billion Muslims pray to “Allah” on the “Night of Power,” Jesus Followers storm the gates of heaven, asking the one true God to move powerfully across the Muslim world. Here are just a few of those prayers:

*“God, I thank You for the Night of Power and for everything You have given me. All praise belongs to You. Thank You, God, for sending us Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. God, I ask that You would show Your mercy and love to Muslims living all over the earth. Make the plans of Satan fail; defeat him so that all the Muslims who are with Satan now—not just in Turkey but all over the world—would become followers of Jesus! Amen.” —Yusef from Turkey*

*“I’m praying, Almighty God, in the name of Jesus. It’s through Your power that I was created; every breath I take is from You. God, I ask You now to touch the hearts of all Muslims with the same power in my country. You created them from the dust of the earth; now I ask You to recreate their hearts to be open to You. Fill them with the healing power of Your Spirit. Remove the dark spots from their hearts and enlighten their lives with the bright lamp of Jesus Christ! Make them true followers of Jesus forever. Amen.” —Abdul from Ethiopia*

*“We are praying on this Night of Power for Iran’s Muslims. We are praying that God will strengthen His people in Iran to endure difficulty and suffering so that they can share their faith amidst great persecution (Colossians 1:11-12). Amen.” —Jesus Followers in Iran*

These Jesus Followers and millions of others like them are trusting God to use the “Night of Power” to break the oppressive and hopeless bonds of Islam and turn hearts toward Him.

**Take action:** *In the first chapter of Colossians, Apostle Paul writes that he and Timothy are continually praying for “God’s holy people in Colossae” to be “strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience” (v. 11, NIV). Today, let’s continue that rich legacy of prayer for our brothers and sisters in the Middle East.*

## Day 12: A New Nation of Believers

**Scripture:** *Read Habakkuk 3.*

**Key verse:** *I have heard all about you, LORD. I am filled with awe by your amazing works. In this time of our deep need, help us again as you did in years gone by. — Habakkuk 3:2, NLT*

Jesus Followers in the Middle East have no fear, because their lives are dead to this earth. They are wanted and hunted for leaving their Islamic faith, but what they have “lost” pales in comparison to what they have found. They found Jesus! His name is all-powerful and higher than every other name.

Those forced from their homes by ISIS violence have begun to resettle quietly in new villages where Christ is King, where love is their new Sharia (law). These Jesus Followers give all they own to honor their Savior and to spread His fame in all the earth. Like the prophet Habakkuk, they proclaim: “I am filled with awe by your amazing works.”

Those who used to follow the ways of Mohammed are now turning to the ways of Jesus and accepting Him as their Savior. They are laying down a life of works in exchange for the forgiveness and love found in Christ. Many are walking away from jihad, from violence and terror, and finding true hope and fulfillment in their newfound relationship with Jesus, the Son of God.

Their prayers are potent, filled with urgency, spoken from a place of hardship, and offered with the thankfulness that comes from a heart made new by the forgiveness of Jesus. The prophet Isaiah raised the question, “Can a nation be born in a day?” (Isaiah 66:8, CEV). The answer just might be “Yes!” Hundreds of thousands of underground churches are lifting their voices and crying out to the Almighty. A new nation of Jesus Followers is looking to our heavenly Father in their time of deep need and finding Him!

**Take action:** *Please pray for our brave and bold brothers and sisters. Many of them risk their life on a daily basis to draw more lost men, women and children into God’s Kingdom. Ask the Lord to cover them with His protection and to fill them with His Holy Spirit, so they can walk with confidence into the new nation that He is preparing for them.*

## Day 13: Love Your Enemies

**Scripture:** *Read Matthew 5.*

**Key verse:** *But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! — Matthew 5:44*

During an attack by ISIS terrorists outside their remote Iraqi village, residents were pinned down for days without any way out. Shots were fired day and night to keep the villagers from escaping.

What the jihadists didn't know was that they weren't firing at "ordinary" Iraqis. They were attacking a village of Jesus Followers. Realizing there was no escape, this group of believers gathered together and began to pray for an answer. After several days, a few of them asked the village elders if bringing food to the ISIS fighters might end the attack.

"We know they've been fighting us for days, and they must be hungry," the group said. "The Bible tells us to love our enemies, and we believe that if we bring them food, then Jesus will be honored, and they will follow Him." The elders agreed, and the villagers began cooking. They cooked all day.

Before sunset, a small group of Jesus Followers made their way across the battlefield, waving a white flag of surrender. A cease-fire order was given, and the ISIS terrorists waited for what they assumed was a supply unit.

To their complete surprise, they were met by strangers bringing them food. The jihadists asked, "Who are you?" The believers replied, "We are the people you are shooting at and trying to kill. But we prayed to our God and knew you were hungry."

The ISIS terrorists were in shock—and very hungry. They dropped their weapons, received the food, and asked, "Who is this God?" Then, the presence of Jesus filled the battlefield. The jihadists left their weapons and their posts. They joined the nation of Christ because of the love, compassion, and caring shown to them by "enemies" who were actually "true children of your Father in heaven" (Matt. 4:45).

**Take action:** *Think of any "enemies" you may have. Whether it's a family member, friend, co-worker or acquaintance, why not take a minute to pray for them, right now? Surely, they can't be as imposing a threat as the one faced by our brothers and sisters in Iraq. Ask the Lord to help you love those who may not love you. And may He touch your heart to love the "unlovable" around you.*

## Day 14: Divine Healing

**Scripture:** *Read Acts 3.*

**Key verse:** *Peter said, “I don’t have any silver or gold for you. But I’ll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!” —Acts 3:6, NLT*

The name of Jesus brings healing. In fact, Christians in the Muslim world are experiencing supernatural, divinely inspired, mental, emotional, and physical healing based on prayers of faith in Jesus' name. Not offered by experts, faith healers, or even trained theologians, these healing prayers have come from everyday people transformed by the power of Christ.

Jesus Followers across the Middle East are stretching their faith to be a conduit of blessing. They are people being used by God to do the extraordinary in the lives of others. Praying to Jesus so that others can be healed is an overflowing of an intimate relationship with an almighty God.

In our churches, we train even the newest believers to listen to the gentle voice of God and to watch Him move in peoples' lives. When the Holy Spirit opens the door to minister the healing power of Jesus, step out in boldness and watch God do miracles.

God uses the gift of healing to break through the darkness, to open eyes that are blinded to the truth, and to minister love and care to the wounded and broken. Among almost all the Jesus Followers I know who are living in the Middle East, supernatural healing is commonplace and expected! They know that what happened in Scripture should be happening among them as well.

Neither Peter nor John healed the lame man at the temple gate in Acts chapter three. To those amazed by what they had just seen, Peter said, “Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed—and you know how crippled he was before. Faith in Jesus’ name has healed him before your very eyes.”

Praise God that, more than 2,000 years later, Jesus Followers are seeing the same power manifested across the Middle East. In fact, one of the first things they do as part of sharing the Good News is to find those who are ill beyond medical intervention. Then, they pray in the name of Jesus for the healing power of Christ to set them free! May the Lord bless these brothers and sisters, as they boldly proclaim the healing power of God to Muslims!

**Take action:** *Please pray for these healings continue, so that many more Muslims and Yazidis will come to faith in Christ. And, if someone you know needs physical or spiritual healing, go before the Lord, right now. Ask Him to work supernaturally to give that person exactly what they need. Trust God that, like the lame man at the temple gate, he or she will soon be “walking, leaping, and praising God” (Acts 3:8).*

## Day 15: Supernatural Power

**Scripture:** *Read Exodus 15.*

**Key verse:** *For I am the LORD who heals you. —Exodus 15:26, NLT*

There is supernatural power in the name of Jesus, and that power includes the power to heal in ways beyond our expectation. Tekan is a Yazidi man and new Jesus Follower from Iraq, who received a miracle from God. Here's his "God Story":

*When ISIS came to our village, they kidnapped my nine-year-old daughter. I looked everywhere and could not find her, but after several days of searching, I found her. The ISIS fighters had abused her very badly and had done terrible things to her. When they were done, they threw her like trash into the bushes, and I thought she would die.*

*I became so emotional that I ran to the top of the mountain and started crying to Jesus. I started yelling, "Oh, Jesus, You changed my life! You gave me the way of life forever, and now I will see You in heaven! You are my true God! I am asking for my daughter. Jesus, heal my daughter!" I cried like this for one hour and finally decided that I would not stop praying until she was healed.*

*Suddenly, I felt like someone picked me up. (I was lying down). Then I heard, "You are my chosen man. Go. Your daughter is healed." I opened my eyes, and no one was around me. It was a dark night, and I could not see anyone. I ran back to my daughter, and she was healed! I asked her what had happened, and she said, "Nothing, Daddy. Why are you crying?" So I shared with her that I thought she was dead, and she said, "I don't remember what happened to me."*

*My daughter was completely healed and was just as she had been before the ISIS people kidnapped her. Over the next several days, I asked her about what had happened because I knew that the ISIS fighters had abused her and left her to die. She said, "I'm really fine. It's like nothing has happened to me."*

Tekan says he knows that Jesus heard his prayer and completely healed his daughter. Now, he travels from village to village sharing what the Lord has done for them. "My story shows God's mercy, His love and His amazing miracle," Tekan adds. "Please pray, as there are hundreds of daughters like my daughter who are facing such problems from ISIS. However, I believe our Jesus has the supernatural power over all evil."

**Take action:** *Would you please honor Tekan's request today and pray for women and girls hurt by ISIS terrorists? Ask God to heal them physically, emotionally, and spiritually. If you need healing today, remember that our heavenly Father is Jehovah Rapha, our healer. Cry out to God and trust Him to restore your health (Psalm 30:2).*

## Day 16: New Birth

**Scripture:** *Read John 1.*

**Key verse:** *But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. —John 1:12, NLT*

The Son of the true God is rising among Muslim nations. For centuries, these countries were captured by the Devil, but now the glory of God is covering them. A new nation is rising in the earth. They call themselves the Jesus Nation. They are the heritage of Christ and the tribe of Jesus!

Kareem had been a trained fighter for many years and had killed many people. But when he speaks about the saving power of Jesus, there is no doubt that he had been forgiven. Kareem often shares about the dreams and visions he had while in a jihadi camp. But it wasn't those supernatural experiences that convinced him to follow Jesus; it was a fellow "terrorist" who told him that Jesus was more than just a prophet.

"The dreams I had of Jesus opened my mind and heart to pray to God in a different way," Kareem explains. "I am walking the path with Jesus because He is the only one who can forgive my sins. I accepted Jesus as my Savior and my God when another person in the jihadi camp personally shared with me that all the sins I have committed would be forgiven!"

While amazing, Kareem's story is not unique. Many new Jesus Followers found Christ the same exact ways. Their eyes may have been opened by a dream or a vision. Some had found a portion of the Bible to read. But all of them came to faith because another person shared the Good News of Jesus!

Kareem was raised in a revenge-filled culture in which right is wrong and wrong is right. He was taught that he must earn his way to heaven and that one day he would be judged to see if his "good deeds" outweighed the bad.

Now, through the kindness of a friend somewhere in an Afghani terror camp, Kareem came face to face with the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as explained in John 1:12-13, "But all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God" (NLT).

**Take action:** *Jesus is the Savior of the world. He is also the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father apart from Him (John 14:6). If you have already been born again, please pray for Jesus Followers who are finding Christ by the thousands and thousands in the Middle East. If you do not have a personal relationship with God through His Son, simply confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that Jesus rose from the grave and you will be saved (Romans 10:9).*

## Day 17: Giving and Receiving

**Scripture:** *Read Luke 6.*

**Key verse:** *Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back. —Luke 6:38, NLT*

A team of Jesus Followers from a network of underground house churches in a Muslim-controlled country were sent to a different nation to bless a war-torn village with a fresh-water well. Soon, the villagers began to question the team who had dug the well and were caring for their new friends. They asked, “Why did you do this for us? What is in your heart to be kind to us in this way?”

Generosity opened the door for a greater opportunity to share about the most generous act of all time. The villagers gathered around to hear the story of a loving God who gave His one and only Son for the salvation of all people. That includes people living in nations where believing in and following Him is punishable by death!

When ISIS began destroying Yazidi villages in Iraq, hundreds of underground-church members volunteered to be part of rescue teams. Others sent food and blankets. Still others opened their farms and homes to shelter those who had lost everything. Families took in orphans as their own children. Broken families were integrated into large, extended families to bring restoration, healing, and love. Single men willingly stepped up and married widows with children who had no means to care for their families.

Their generosity opened hearts. Soon the Yazidis were asking, “Who are you? Why are you being kind to us? Why are you defending us against the Devil and his workers—ISIS?” Patiently and lovingly, these radical Jesus followers would bring meals, send volunteer doctors, provide clothing, and continue to be a blessing. After a while, the lavish generosity demanded a response. The Yazidis came one by one, then by the dozens, and then by the hundreds to ask about the motive for such selfless generosity.

The explanation was powerfully simple. Jesus had forgiven, cleansed, and made new those who once hated Yazidi minorities. But now, because of the generosity of Christ, these underground-church members were sacrificing what they had and paying forward that generosity. The result? For the first time in 2,000 years, there is a vibrant, generous, life-giving, Jesus-loving church among the Yazidi people.

**Take action:** *Jesus tells His disciples in Luke 6:38, “The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.” So, why shouldn’t believers everywhere give as much as we can as often as we can to bring more people to faith in Christ? Take a moment to evaluate your “giving level.” Should you be sharing more of your time and other resources to advance God’s kingdom? If so, make a change. You’ll be glad you did.*

## Day 18: The Power of God's Word

**Scripture:** *Read Psalm 119.*

**Key verse:** *I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. — Psalm 119:11, NLT*

The incredible and miraculous move of the Holy Spirit sweeping across the Middle East includes countless amazing stories of prayer, courage, and bravery. They provide undeniable proof that God's Word has the power to change nations. It may seem like an oversimplification, but helping people begin a relationship with Jesus changes their hearts. Helping people live by God's Word changes their minds—for good and for God.

A key tool for changing minds is a Bible translated into a seeker's or new believer's "heart language." But not every language in the Middle East has a translation of God's Word. That's why efforts have been underway since 2015 to translate Scripture into 100 strategic languages to target unreached people around the world.

But translation efforts are difficult and often dangerous. The men and women doing the work are often on the frontlines of conflict and can find themselves and their families in harm's way. Sharif is a translator for a number of Arabic-related New Testaments, who was a terrorist before coming to Christ. But his life was touched by violence again when a missile made a direct hit on his village—at his grandmother's home!

Fellow believers prayed for Sharif, asking for the peace of God to work in his heart and mind and for the truth of God's Word to speak to his mind. Because nothing is more powerful than the truth of the Scripture to work through our hearts and minds. It is the key to help us sort out how we feel from what is true. In times of trouble and pain, the depth of God's Word is the guiding light for many former Islamic extremists who are now walking the Jesus path.

Psalm 119:11 says, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." How can any of us find our way without a roadmap? Or discover how to live for Christ without a manual? God's Word—the Bible—is the guide that is both grounding and fuelling a radical movement for Jesus in the Middle East.

**Take action:** *Psalm 119:105 tells us, "Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path." Praise God that the steps of Jesus Followers in the Middle East are being "illuminated" by His holy Word! Please pray for even more people to have Scripture translated in their heart language so they will experience the power of God's Word.*

## Day 19: Bought for a Price

**Scripture:** *Read 1 Corinthians 6.*

**Key verse:** *God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body. —1 Corinthians 6:20, NLT*

Miriam is from a Yazidi family. War came to her country, and then ISIS came to her village. The attack killed many people. Others, including Miriam, were kidnapped. For three weeks, she was tortured and sexually abused by several terrorists.

“They treated me like an animal and beat me when I didn’t obey their orders,” Miriam recalls. “I begged them, ‘Please don’t do this to me. Please release me.’ They smiled back at me and tortured me again. They said, ‘Why should we release you? You are our slave.’ After a few days, we would change locations and then change again and again.”

Miriam remembers that the jihadists were well armed and would kill and torture people right in front of her: “In their minds, they are the only humans, and everyone else is an animal. I felt like I was in a prison. I tried to commit suicide, but one of them stopped me and tortured me again.”

When she heard the terrorists were going to sell her, Miriam hit bottom. “I said, ‘Please kill me, but don’t sell me!’ I knew that if they sold me to another group, then those men would again do whatever they wanted with me. I started to cry and yelled, ‘Please, no!’”

Miriam’s “buyers” led her away screaming and crying with her hands tied. But not everything was as it seemed. The men who bought Miriam were Jesus Followers. “Dear Sister,” they explained, “we are good people. God sent us to buy Yazidi girls from these bad people.” After receiving water and food, she saw that the Jesus Followers had purchased nearly 20 other girls.

“We understood that God sent His people to save us,” Miriam said. “We learned that the wives of these men gave up their gold jewelry and paid for us to be free. Now, we are safe, learning about God, and enjoying a good life.”

**Take action:** *Human trafficking is a horrific crime that targets women and girls not only in the Middle East, but around the world. Please pray for the victims who are physically and sexually abused. Ask the Lord to work supernaturally and through law enforcement to free those trapped in slavery and servitude. Also, plead for God to expose and destroy the evil behind this scourge against humanity.*

## Day 20: A Spiritual Revolution

**Scripture:** *Read Matthew 24.*

**Key verse:** *And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come. —Matthew 24:14, NLT*

It would be an oversimplification to suggest that just one thing triggered this Jesus movement in the Middle East. Thousands upon thousands of people from the Islamic world have become radical Jesus Followers, and God is using multiple means to accomplish His grand purpose. The world is witnessing what could be one of the largest and most significant spiritual revolutions in the region since the birth of Islam in 622 A.D.

A tribe of people who follow Jesus is rising from the ashes of suffering and persecution. With a fierce boldness in one hand and the gentleness of love and forgiveness in the other, they are “capturing” entire nations for Christ. Their efforts, impact and influence have passed the point of being squelched, silenced, or ignored.

The “authors” of this secret uprising are destined to live in obscurity on this earth, but our heavenly Father will reward them for eternity in heaven. Imams, sheikhs, tribal leaders, and even former Al Qaeda, Taliban, and ISIS members have realized that the only way to find peace and to rid their hearts of evil is through the forgiveness of Jesus. These events are not random or a series of “isolated incidents.” The evidence proves that we are experiencing an extraordinary move of God.

One day, very soon, we will watch this movement of radical Jesus Followers emerge from the shadows with an unstoppable momentum that will help usher in the Kingdom of God and bring back Jesus to earth! By choosing to live boldly for Jesus among radicalized Muslims and lost Yazidis, they willingly sacrificed their own futures, brought persecution on their families, and paid for their newfound faith by surrendering their lives for the sake of the cross.

**Take action:** *Please pray that the “Jesus movement” in the Middle East will continue. Ask God to continue pouring out His Spirit on the Muslim and Yazidi people, while empowering the Jesus Followers to keep pointing the way to Christ.*

## Day 21: A Surrendered Life

**Scripture:** *Read Matthew 16.*

**Key verse:** *If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. —Matthew 16:25, NLT*

The power of a surrendered life changes everything. As the great evangelist D.L. Moody once said: “The world has yet to see what God can do with a man fully consecrated to him. By God’s help, I aim to be that man.” A surrendered life has power to overcome fear, the threat of death, and all kinds of evil because Jesus said, “If you give up your life for my sake, you will save it” (Matthew 16:25). Even more, a surrendered life has nothing to lose in this life and can focus on changing the world for good.

Jesus Followers in the Middle East understand that. Many of the unreached live in spiritually dark places, where governments oppose freedom of speech and freedom of worship. “Rescue teams” trying to reach the lost with the message of Christ’s love aren’t afraid to go. “We have already given our lives to Jesus,” one team leader explained. “Don’t ask us where to go—just *tell us* where the need is, and we will go. This is our duty, our commitment to Jesus.”

Even though members of the underground churches in Muslim-dominated countries live in very difficult and often hostile environments, their minds and hearts are fully committed to the mission. “This is our life,” that same team leader insisted. “We are ready to go and die for Jesus. We spent our lives living for the Devil. How can we do less for Jesus?”

Indeed. Knowing Christ’s sacrifice for His church, how can any of us not do everything we can to make Him known among the nations? We are in the midst of a miracle. This incredible movement of Jesus Followers is made up of men and women either formerly trapped by Islam or blinded by their Yazidi faith. Yet, each of them has been set free from their own sin to live for and love Jesus as their Savior. What’s even more amazing is that all of these Jesus Followers are willing to lose their lives to win others to Christ!

**Take action:** *Have you surrendered your life to Jesus? All of it? Please take a few moments and prayerfully search yourself. Find any part of you that is not fully surrendered to God and lay it down. Give your entire self to our heavenly Father, worship His Son Jesus with your whole heart, and live in the power of the Holy Spirit. If you do, you’ll join millions of Jesus Followers in the Middle East who are doing the exact same thing.*