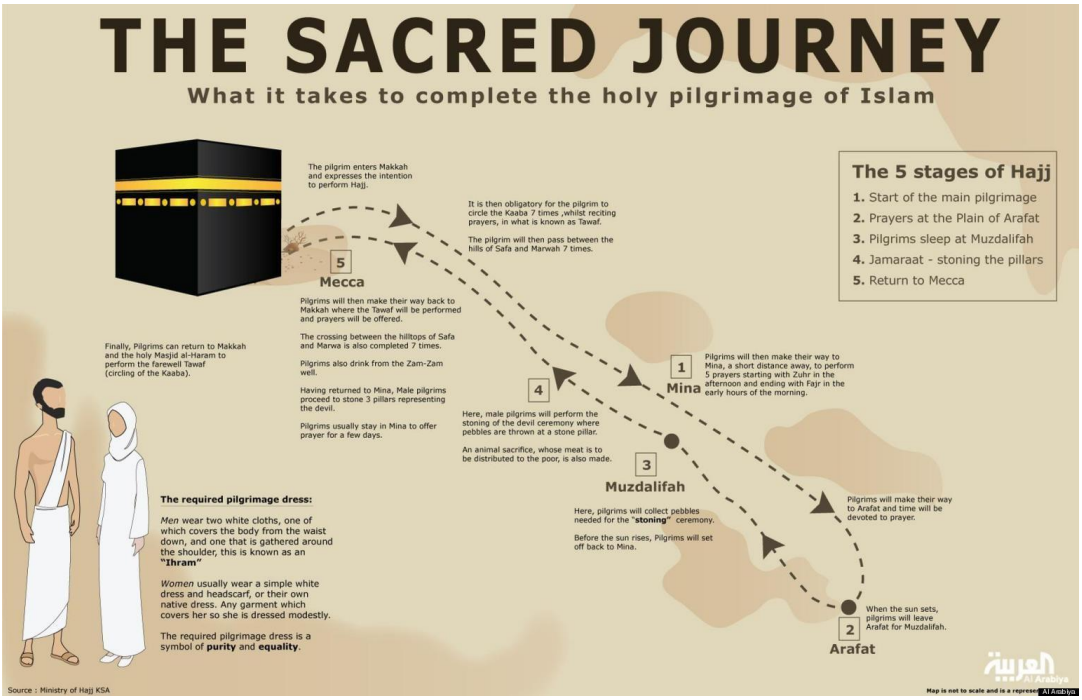
Five Day Prayer Guide

Once a year, around 2-3 million Muslims from around the world gather in Mecca, Saudi Arabia for a 5-day pilgrimage called the Hajj. As one of the five pillars of Islam, every Muslim who is financially able, is required to make this journey. During the time in Mecca, men and woman perform a series of religious rites and symbolic rituals as they seek God and ask forgiveness from their sin. Many Muslims view their hajj experience as the spiritual highlight of their lives.

Please use and share this PDF copy of this prayer guide to pray for these lost souls who are truly seeking the One True God. May all the pilgrims be able to know through experience and proclaim, just like King David, *"There is no one like you, LORD, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears."* (2 Chron. 17:20)

Mecca in Western Saudi Arabia is revered as the birthplace of the Islamic prophet Muhammad and hence considered as the holiest city and cradle of Islam.

It is located 70km inland from Jeddah on the Red Sea in a narrow valley 277 meters above sea level. The population is estimated at about 2 million and therefore the third most populated city after Riyad and Jeddah. During



Day 1: Ritual cleansing

"Whoever performs hajj for Allah's pleasure…and does not do evil or sins, will return (after Hajj) free form all sin as if he was born anew."

-Sahih Bukhari, Book 26: Pilgrimage, Hajj

The first ritual of the hajj involves washing and putting on plain garments symbolizing a state of purity and unity. They spend the night in the tent city in Mina.

**"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." Isaiah 1:18*

**"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." Ps 51:10*

**"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." Mat. 7:7-8*

PRAY

- That Muslims will cry out to God and ask Him to give them clean, pure hearts.
- That the Lord would reveal to Muslims that only Jesus provides purification for sins.

Day 2: Seeking forgiveness

At dawn pilgrims, journey from Mina to Arafat, a hill east of Mecca, also known as the Mount of Mercy, where according to tradition, Muhammed gave his final sermon. Pilgrims spend the day praying for forgiveness of sins. At sunset they travel about 8 km to Muzdalifah, where they sleep under the stars. Along the way they collect pebbles for the next day's ritual.

**"He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed." 1 Pet. 2:24*

**"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9*

**"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace." Eph. 1:7*

PRAY

- Ask God to reveal Himself to them under the stars, in dreams and visions.
- That Muslims will encounter the Saviour of the world who paid the price for their sins.

Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.

They will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God their Savior. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob."- Psalm 24:3-6

Day 3: Stoning the Evil One and Day of Sacrifice (Eid Al Adha)

This is the longest day of the Hajj and Eid al Adha, the biggest celebration of the year. The Day of Sacrifice commemorates Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son.

Before dawn, pilgrims return to Mina. Here at Muzdalifah, they throw seven pebbles at a large wall in a symbolic stoning of the devil. This is the spot they believe where God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son. The devil appeared and tried to tempt Abraham to disobey the Lord, but Abraham responded by throwing stones at the devil.

After casting their stones, pilgrims sacrifice an animal, either a lamb or camel or pay for it to be done on their behalf. The animal's meat is packed and shipped to other Islamic countries or is fed to the poor.

Men traditionally cut their hair or shave their heads, and women trim theirs at this stage. They then return to Mecca to circle the Kaaba seven times and run or walk seven times through tunnels between the hills of Safa and Marwah. After completing the day's rites, they travel back to the tent city in Mina.

**Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God, day and night, has been hurled down." Rev.12:10*

**The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29*

**"For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy." Heb. 10:14*

PRAY

- Ask God to reveal to Muslims that Christ alone has defeated the evil one and offers them the free gift of salvation.
- Pray that pilgrims will have the chance to hear the message of the Gospel and begin to understand Jesus' perfect work on the cross.
- That God would show many pilgrims that works and rituals cannot save them.

Day 4: Renouncing temptation

On the fourth and fifth days, pilgrims make their way to three walls in Mina and repeat the stoning of the evil one by throwing seven pebbles at each pillar. These ritual stoning symbolizes rebuking Satan. They also represent a renunciation of internal temptations and basic desires.

**"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us". Rom. 5:8*

**"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Heb.12:1-2*

**"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." Gal.5:1*

PRAY

- Thank the Lord for showing His love for us through Christ's great sacrifice.
- Pray that Muslims will recognize their inability to cast off sin on their own and their need for the cross.
- That they will cry out to the Lord for Christ's freedom and deliverance from sin.

Testimonies

Muslim meets Jesus: Muslim Man Meets Jesus in Mecca

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipv_YH2d9os

(5-6 min)

I Was a Devoted Muslim… Until THIS Happened at the Kaaba -The Shocking Testimony of John Ghanim

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kEMP3KNPe4

(48 min)

Day 5: Completing the pilgrimage

On this final day, pilgrims complete one last symbolic stoning of the devil. They then return to Mecca and perform a final circuit around the Kaaba in an anti-clockwise direction, seven times, touching or kissing the Kaaba if possible. Pilgrims reflect on their experience and thank Allah for everything and drink water from the Zamzam Well, located 20 m east of the Kaaba. It is believed that this well miraculously opened thousands of years ago when Ismael, Abraham's son was left with his mother Hagar in the desert.
Before returning home, Muslims visit nearby historical sites such as Medina, the second holiest city in Islam and the location of Muhammad's burial place. Back in their home communities, returnees are welcomed with fanfare and celebration**.**

**"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast." Eph. 2:8-9*

**" For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16*

**"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished." Rom. 3:23-25*

PRAY

- For God to show Muslims that their works and rituals have no power to save them from sin.
- Ask the Lord to reveal to pilgrims in Mecca that salvation is free and can only be received by faith in Jesus Christ.
- Pray that Muslims returning from the Hajj will meet followers of Jesus who share the Gospel with love and boldness.

Please continue to pray for the salvation of these lost souls. You are also cordially invited to pray with us, the SA Sending Base, for an unreached people group, every Friday @ 9am on Zoom. For more information, email info@frontiers.org.za / Whatsap Frontiers SA at 060 255 2155, or Sherene at 083 417 2909