



Praying for Muslims of West Africa

Over 143 million West Africans are followers of Islam. Five times a day they stop everything for a time of ritualized worship and prayer. Most West Africans cannot understand the Arabic words used during these rituals, yet they faithfully repeat the words in order to earn merit with God.

During this prayer time you will learn some of the prayer positions used by Muslims—standing, listening, bowing, worshiping and kneeling. However, you will infuse these positions with new meaning as you perform them while reading God's Word and praying for the peoples of West Africa to come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Invite participants to stand and join you as you demonstrate each position. Then as a group, move through each position while aligning your heart and mind with the heart and mind of Jesus. The third time through, pray for the needs of West African Muslims.

I. Standing: Preparing to enter God's presence

Stand up straight with arms down by your side. Ask God to cleanse your heart and mind. Acknowledge that it is only through God's grace and the blood of Jesus that you are able to enter God's presence. Pray that He would give you His heart for West African Muslims.

Read Acts 17:26-27

"From one man He made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him..."

Pray

Ask God that this will be the moment in history when the peoples of West Africa would seek Him, reach out for Him and find Him. Pray that God will continue opening doors so that His living Word can bring hope to people groups bound for centuries in the grip of Islam.

II. Listening

While still in the standing position, raise your hands to your ears and cup them as though trying to hear. Ask God to speak to you and give you the words to pray for West African Muslims.

Read Romans 10:13-14

"For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. How shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?"

Pray

Ask God to give West Africans the opportunity to hear the Gospel in their heart language. Many West Africans are not able to read the written Scripture. Pray for the development of an oral Bible in their languages. Pray the stories from God's Word would spread quickly among villages and communities. Pray that these stories will be etched into their hearts and minds, so that they will teach God's truths to their children and grandchildren.

III. Bowing

Place your hands on your knees and bend forward at the waist. Use this time to give God the reverence and glory that is due to His name.

Read Philippians 2:9-11

“Therefore, God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow ... and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Pray

Pray that the peoples of West Africa will bow and acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Savior. Pray that new believers will be obedient to God's mission to share the good news of salvation with their families, neighbors and even with their enemies. Pray that new believers would have courage to share their faith despite persecution. West Africans who choose to follow Christ as Lord and are often ostracized and persecuted by their own families. Pray that family members would be saved when they witness the Godly example of believers around them. Pray that as believers partake in the sufferings of Christ, they would hold firmly to the faith and be strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

IV. Worshiping

From the bowing position, squat and put your hands in front of you on the floor. As you kneel, bend forward and lower your forehead to touch the carpet. In this position worship Jesus as Lord. Yield your life to Him.

Read Ephesians 2:8-9

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

Pray that God will shower the people of West Africa with grace. Pray that they will repent of their sin and place their faith in Jesus. Pray that they will become faithful, lifelong disciples of Christ. Ask the Father to send believers from around the world to carry the message of His grace to all the peoples of West Africa. Praise the Lord for His promise that one day every people, tribe and nation will worship before him. Thank Him for the West Africans who will bow down beside you as you worship the Lamb together.

V. Kneeling: Asking and Receiving

While you are still kneeling on the floor, lift your outstretched hands with palms up, keeping your elbows by your side. This is a time when you can bring your petitions and thanksgiving to the throne.

Read II Corinthians 3:14-17

“Their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Law, because the veil is taken away in Christ. But even to this day ... a veil lies on their heart. Nevertheless, when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”

Pray

Ask God to unveil the hearts of Muslims and open their minds to receive the Truth. Pray that the people of West Africa will experience eternal freedom in Christ. Pray that new churches would emerge among every people group in West Africa and that these churches would multiply. Pray that the Word of God would spread through families, communities, and to neighboring people groups.

We hope this will be an enriching experience for all who participate. Please continue to pray regularly that all the peoples of West Africa will one day worship alongside you before the throne.