

Family Guide

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



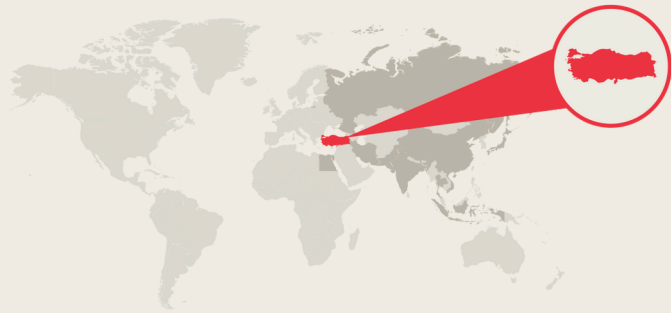
A One-Year Prayer ADVENTURE!

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 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 Turkey!



This month we are focusing on Turkey—the land where followers of Jesus were first called Christians (see Acts 11:26)! Turkey is known for its natural wonders, from sandy beaches to beautiful mountain ranges. It also has many unique shops, called bazaars, where hundreds of thousands of people shop every day.



Turkey is an amazing country where ancient history meets modern excitement! Picture yourself strolling through Istanbul's bustling streets, filled with delicious food smells and friendly faces. Imagine soaring above the region of Cappadocia in one of the many colorful hot air balloons, viewing towns built throughout mysterious rocky formations under which civilizations once lived.

Fun Facts About Turkey



Mount Ararat is the tallest mountain in Turkey. It's taller than 50 big buildings stacked on top of each other! Although it's a volcano, it hasn't erupted for a long time. Some people believe this is where Noah's Ark landed a long time ago.



Turkey grows more than half of all the hazelnuts in the world, especially near the Black Sea. Hazelnuts are yummy nuts that are used in treats like chocolate spreads. Farmers work hard to pick them, and their work helps make snacks that people all around the world enjoy.



The Turkish language uses a special alphabet called the *Türk alfabesi*. It was made in 1928 to help people learn to read and write more easily. Instead of using the traditional alphabet with Arabic letters, this one uses letters like in English, plus some fun ones like "ğ" and "ş."



Turkish coffee is a strong and tasty drink made in a little pot called a *cezve*. When it's ready, the tiny coffee grounds sink to the bottom of the cup. People drink it slowly, taking small sips. In Turkey, sharing coffee is a special way to show kindness and spend time with friends and family.



The Lycian Way is a long walking path in southern Turkey. It's 335 miles (540 kilometers) long and takes hikers about one month to complete. Along the path, you can see old ruins, pretty beaches and small villages. It's named after the Lycians, people who lived there a long time ago.

Ready to pray for the people of Turkey?

Turkey has several extremely intense roller coasters known for their aggressive forces and smooth rides. Would you ride one? I wouldn't. Maybe getting stuck on one for hours as a teenager left a lasting impression on me. The rest of my family loves roller coasters: the anticipation, the thrill, the speed—sometimes the unknown—creates a fun experience for them.

Real-life ups and downs, twists and turns or the unknown can create stress, fear or anxiety in our lives. Is what's happening in your life causing you to feel out of control?

I find that focusing on the Lord, especially by thinking about how awesome He is (praising Him), or taking time to list the many things I'm thankful for, can help me break through my swirling emotions. Consider being old-fashioned and write these verses on notecards, or simply on the note app in your phone so you can pull them out when your life starts to twist and turn. As you stop to praise Him and thank Him, let the presence of God bring you peace.

"He said, 'Lord, you are the God of our ancestors. You are the God in heaven. You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. You have power and strength. No one can stand against You.'"
— 2 Chronicles 20:6, International Children's Bible

"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

May our daily prayers cause God to help Turkish people understand who the Lord Jesus is. May they come to know His incredible love, that He chose to die for them and rise again so they can have purpose and joy and a forever home with Him in heaven.

Thank you for praying with us.

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



*"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, ICB



☐ 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 the 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

Earthquakes, some small and some large, happen often in Turkey. Ask for God's protection during earthquakes and for Christians to serve their neighbors and share with them about Jesus during these difficult times.

Week 1 Activity: Trace John 14:6 in Turkish

'İsa, “Yol, gerçek ve yaşam Ben'im” dedi.
“Benim aracılığım olmadan Baba'ya kimse gelemmez. ’

KUTSAL KİTAP Yeni Çeviri Yuhanna 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 2 REQUESTS



"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



☐ Day 8

Ask God to bless a local recording studio that produces Christian radio programs, podcasts and ministry videos. Let's pray all people living in Turkey will hear about Jesus!

☐ Day 9

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 10

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 11

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 12

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 the tools, then the takers couldn't take them where they need to go. 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.

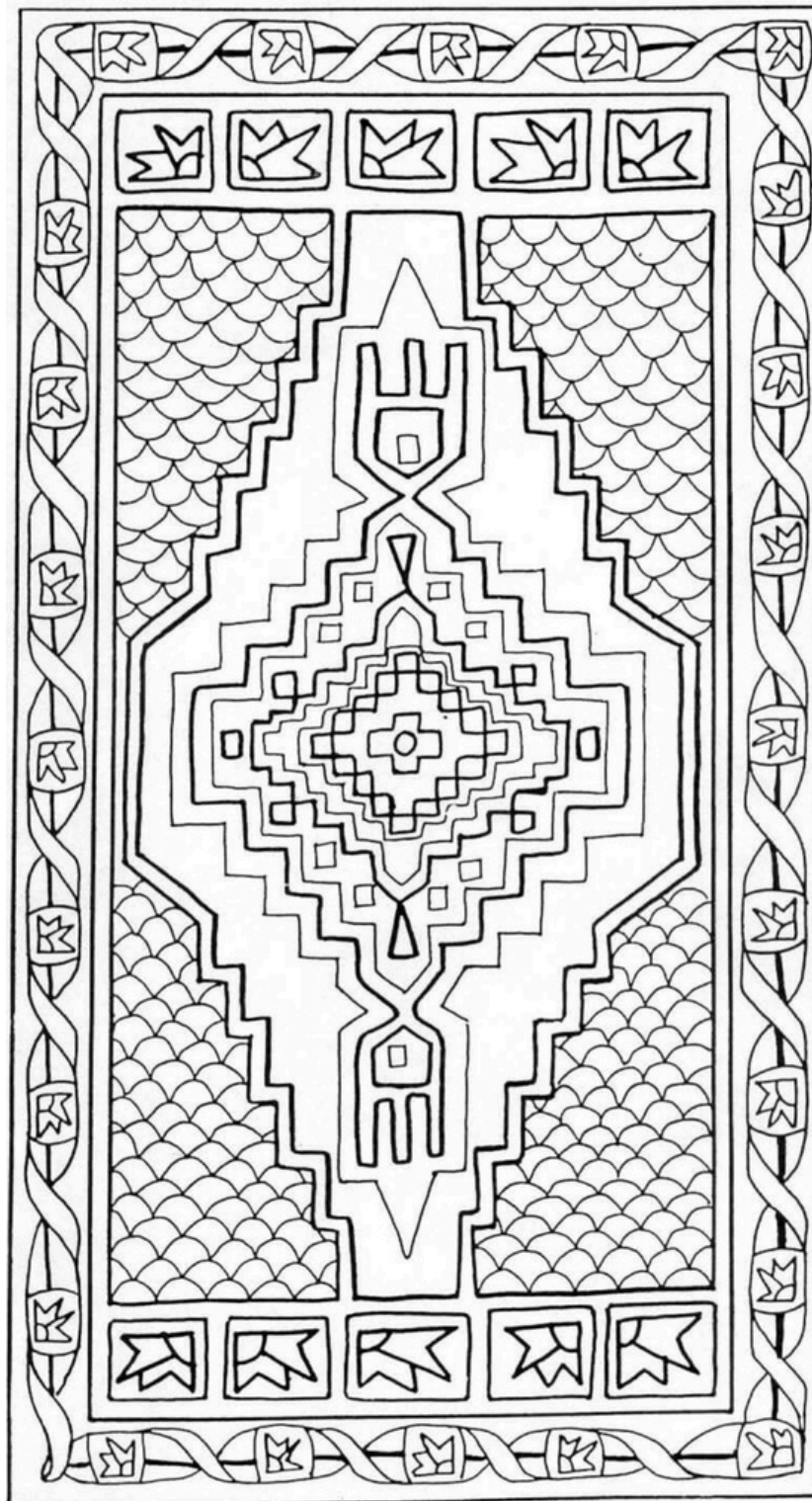
☐ Day 13

Pray Christian workers can gather together to encourage and learn from one another.

☐ Day 14

Have you ever tried digging in soil that's almost rock-hard? It's really tough 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.

Week 2 Activity: Turkish Rug Coloring Page



WEEK 3 REQUESTS



"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



☐ Day 15

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 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 some towns and even whole provinces in Turkey with no churches at all and very few people who believe in Jesus. Pray God provides trustworthy mentors to help those believers grow in their faith so that they tell their friends and families about Jesus.

☐ Day 18

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 19

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.

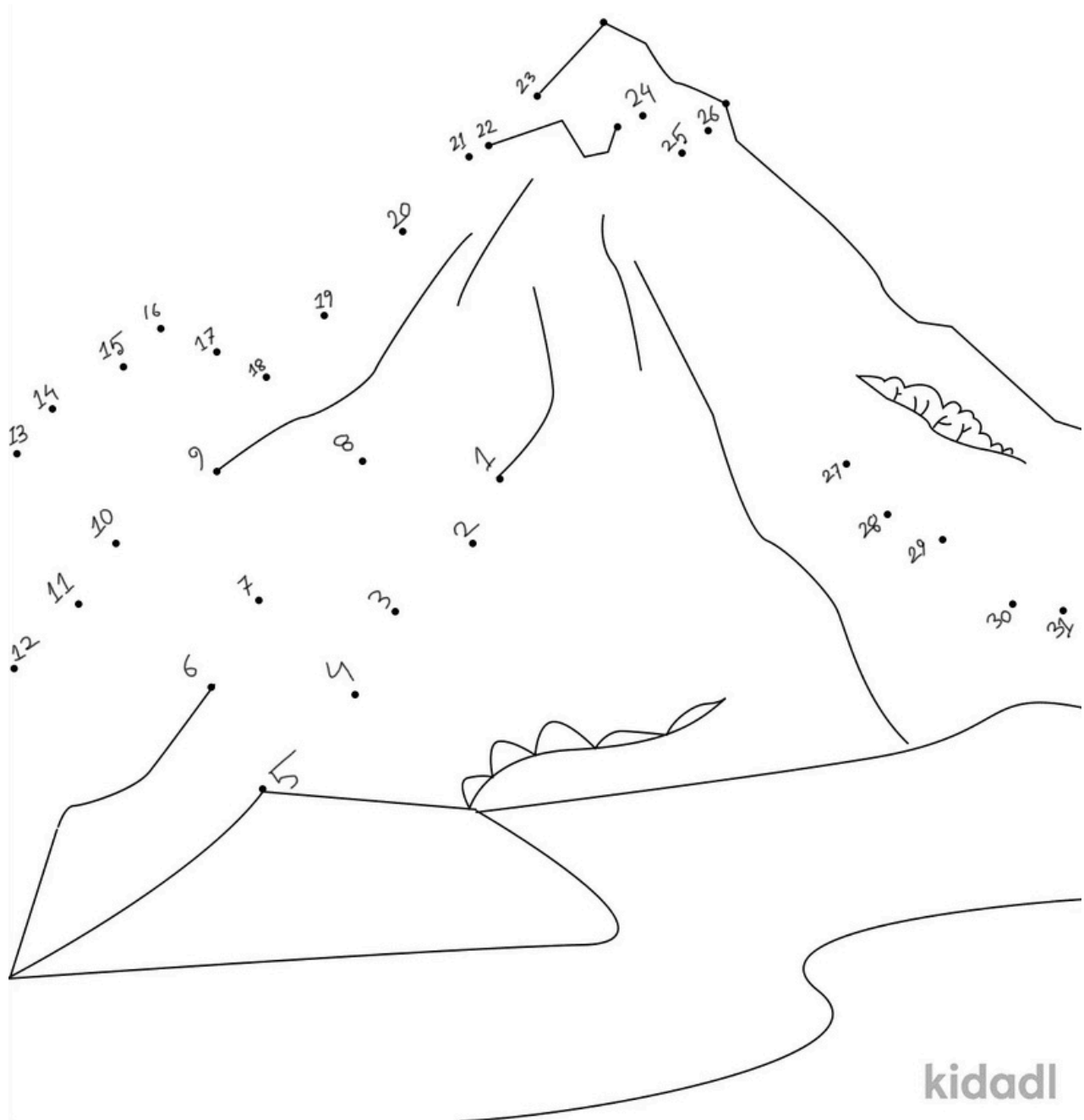
☐ Day 20

Years ago, Christian workers arrived in Turkey from other countries to tell people about Jesus and to help start churches there. 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 21

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.

Week 3 Activity: Mountain Connect The Dots



WEEK 4 REQUESTS



*"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



□ Day 22

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

□ Day 23

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 24

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 working hard. There are so many people who still need to know about God's love and forgiveness.

□ Day 25

Praise God that more and more people from Turkey are visiting Christian social media channels and finding videos about the God of the Bible. Ask Him to lead many more people to find these videos and experience the love and goodness He freely offers to everyone.

□ Day 26

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 27

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 accepts Jesus as 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 will talk to others about their faith in Jesus.

□ Day 28

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).

Week 4 Activity: Turkey Word Search

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

WORD LIST:

ANCIENT	BLACK SEA	COFFEE	MODERN
ARARAT	CAPPADOCIA	HAZELNUTS	ROLLER COASTERS
ARK	CEZVE	ISTANBUL	TURK ALFABESI
BEACHES	CHRISTIANS	LYCIAN WAY	VOLCANO

WEEK 5 REQUESTS



□ Day 29

Pray for bold, fearless faith in the lives of believers across Turkey.

□ Day 30

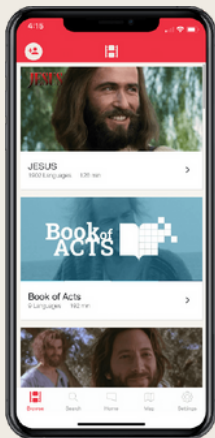
When students go to college, they learn new facts and skills, but their classes usually do not teach about the God of the Bible. God wants students to hear His good news and to trust Him. He also wants His followers to grow in important ways—in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 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 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 2,100 languages on our website.
<https://www.jesusfilm.org/watch/jesus.html/english.html>
- ▶ We also have multiple other films and short films available. <https://www.jesusfilm.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.
jesusfilm.org/pray



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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.

