

10 Ways to Pray for Muslims for the Next 5 Days

More than 2 million Muslims began the annual hajj pilgrimage, Tuesday, in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

The hajj consists of five intense days of ritual and prayer in Islam's holiest city. The pilgrimage to Mecca is among the five main pillars of Islam and must be carried out by every adult Muslim who is physically and financially able, at least once in their lives.

By performing the hajj, pilgrims believe the series of rituals and prayers will erase their past sins. Muslims believe the hajj traces the paths of the Prophets Abraham, Ishmael and Mohammed.

During the hajj, many Christian organizations are encouraging people to pray for the Muslims in Mecca.

Missionary David Garrison told CBN News there are already a huge number of Muslims coming to Christ in the Islamic world.

"There's never been a time of greater conflict between the house of Islam and the West," Garrison said. "And yet, at this very time is when the Holy Spirit is drawing Muslims to faith in Christ. What I hope is simply that brothers and sisters around the world, who recognize the work of the Holy Spirit, would see that this is our moment to be loving and kind and witnessing and praying for Muslims, because God is in fact doing a great work, in our day."

The ministry organization Christar published an article educating Christians on what's taking place each day of the hajj. They have suggested a different prayer for each specific day.

Day One:

Participants wash and put on plain white garments that represent the equality of all pilgrims. They travel to the tent city of Mina, where they spend the night.

1. Pray that the spiritual focus of this time will cause many Muslims to think about what they believe.
2. Ask God to bring believers into the lives of those who take part in the hajj this year.

Day Two:

Pilgrims continue to Arafat, where they stand or sit from noon to sunset, invoking Allah for mercy and seeking forgiveness for sins.

3. Pray that Muslims will experience the true forgiveness that is available through Christ alone.

At sunset, pilgrims leave for Muzdalifah, where they spend the night under the open sky.

4. As many pilgrims stay up all night to pray, ask God to reveal Himself to them.

Day Three:

Pilgrims take part in the "stoning of the devil," throwing seven stones at a wall representing Satan. Muslims believe that Abraham threw stones at the devil to resist the temptation to sacrifice his son Ishmael.

5. Pray that Muslims will be delivered from Satan's lies.

Men shave their heads or cut their hair, while women cut the ends of their hair, as a sign of humility and purity.

6. Pray that many Muslims will understand that true purity is possible only through Christ.

Pilgrims slaughter an acceptable animal or pay to have an

animal sacrificed in their name.

7. Pray that many Muslims will understand that Jesus, the true Lamb, died as a substitutionary sacrifice for sin.

Pilgrims circle the Kaaba (a cube-shaped building at the center of the most sacred mosque in Mecca) seven times, and run or walk seven times through tunnels between the hills of Safa and Marwah.

8. Pray that God would show many pilgrims that works and rituals cannot save them.

Day Four:

Pilgrims “stone the devil” again by throwing stones at each of the three walls. This ritual also symbolizes the repudiation of a person’s own “internal despot,” or low desires and wishes.

9 Pray that many Muslims will realize that they are unable to turn from sin on their own.

Day Five:

After a final stoning of the walls, pilgrims return to Mecca for a farewell circuit around the Kaaba, and the pilgrimage is over.

10. Ask God to open the eyes of Muslims to see that we are born in sin, and that salvation is a free gift, not something we can obtain by works.