



# Middle East

## Where Church History Began

---

### Middle Eastern Hospitality

Middle Easterners are renowned for being extremely friendly, polite, and hospitable people. They take pride in their hospitality.

However, life and ministry can take a toll on workers and their families. As one of the least-reached areas in the world today, the need for workers is great.

The Joshua Project estimates that only .04% of the population are evangelical believers, with 96.3% of the population professing to follow the teachings of Islam.

In some areas, a mixture of Islam and fierce nationalism leads to Christian persecution. Citizens are expected to be Muslims. This leaves little space for minorities and indirectly results in the persecution of Christians.

Within the home, Christian converts, in particular, face strong opposition from their families. They are seen as traitors to both Islam and their national identity.

Converts from Islam, while not legally prosecuted, face social opposition. And as a result, some keep their faith hidden from family and community members. Christians with Muslim backgrounds are threatened with divorce and loss of inheritance rights upon conversion, and Christians face employment discrimination.

### Islam

The Islamic faith originated in the Arabian peninsula, based on what Muslims believe to be divine revelations by God to the prophet Mohammed. Approximately 90 percent of Muslims are of the Sunni tradition; most of the remainder are of the Shi'ite tradition. Unlike the West, there is not a tradition of separation between faith and state institutions.

Situated between Africa, Asia, and Europe, the Middle East has been a crossroads for traders, travelers, and empire builders for thousands of years. It is the birthplace of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Religion plays a large part in the rhythm of daily life, not only through prayer and study but also influencing marketplace decisions.

An awareness of God (*Allah*) is exhibited in common expressions. In response to "How are you?" is "Praise be to God." When expressing hope for a future event, one might say, "God willing." The exclamation "What God wills!" is often heard as an expression of delight.

While there are those for whom these phrases reflect the divine, others use them out of tradition from a more secular vantage point.

**World Team**

[us.worldteam.org](http://us.worldteam.org)

[mobilize.us@worldteam.org](mailto:mobilize.us@worldteam.org)

800.967.7109

# Loving Muslims to Jesus

## Serving in the Middle East

World Team continues to create and implement new approaches to love and serve Muslims in the Middle East. We use diverse ministry methods and holistic, incarnational approaches that increase trust and allow us to share our faith.

Our goal is to see the gospel transform lives through effective evangelism and discipleship. As we draw out the gifts and talents of local believers being discipled, we are developing and equipping them to become leaders. Our desire is to launch new church plants with local leaders who have a vision to see each new church reach out and multiply.

Developing a dynamic spiritual life and demonstrated understanding and application of scripture is essential for local believers and workers. Each will have the opportunity to use their spiritual gifts to engage the local community.

Key to success is World Team's value of providing ongoing leadership mentoring and training, especially in areas where the church may be young and face persecution.

We are praying for many new workers to serve with us in the Middle East. We need workers who have business or professional skills and experience to help launch new or maintain existing businesses or serve as marketplace workers. Good communication skills, a learner's mindset, and the ability to live in ambiguity are essential.

## Middle Eastern Culture

*Culture* is a shared set of traditions, belief systems, and behaviors that are shaped by history, religion, ethnic identity, language, and nationality, among other factors.

To live and serve in a Middle Eastern culture requires patience (the work is slow), the ability to live with ambiguity (things often don't go as planned) and a strong belief that God has a plan for the Muslim world.

## Ministry Overview

People	Muslim
Language	Various
Location	Middle East
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Holistic church planting</li><li>• Evangelism and Discipleship</li><li>• Business development</li><li>• Marketplace workers</li><li>• College ministry</li></ul>
Worker Profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ability to collaborate with people of diverse cultures</li><li>• Innovative, flexible, teachable, and courageous</li><li>• Strong Biblical knowledge</li><li>• Relational, team player</li><li>• Skilled in Muslim evangelism and discipleship</li></ul>

*"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." -2 Timothy 2:2*

**Join the Team!**

**[US.WorldTeam.org](https://US.WorldTeam.org)**

**[Mobilize.US@WorldTeam.org](mailto:Mobilize.US@WorldTeam.org)**



Glorifying God by working together to establish reproducing churches focusing on the unreached peoples of the world.