



CHILDREN'S PRAYER DEVOTIONAL

Part 4: Praying for the Persecuted Church



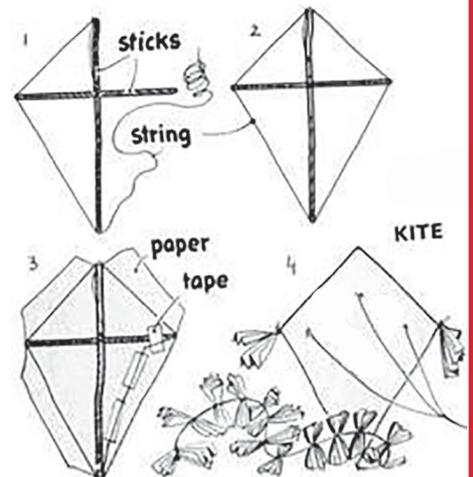


Week 17: #2 Afghanistan

MAKE YOUR OWN KITE:

Children love playing with kites in Afghanistan, and you can join them by making your own! Have fun! To make a kite, you will need:

- a plastic bag or newspaper
- two wooden sticks about 90 cm and 120 cm long (You can make it shorter if you wish)
- twine or string
- strong tape
- scissors
- pencil



Follow the instructions to help you make your kite.



This week let's pack our bags and travel to Afghanistan in Central Asia. Afghanistan is a Muslim country and is considered the second most dangerous country in the world to be a Christian after North Korea. There are thousands of mosques for Muslims to pray in but not a single Christian church for the Jesus followers in Afghanistan. They all have to meet in secret because it is illegal to leave Islam and become a Christian.

Did you know that no one can openly say that they are a Christian in Afghanistan? Because honour is so important in their culture, if someone says they believe in Jesus, their family has to kick them out of the home or even kill them to protect their honour and the Muslim faith. Many times--

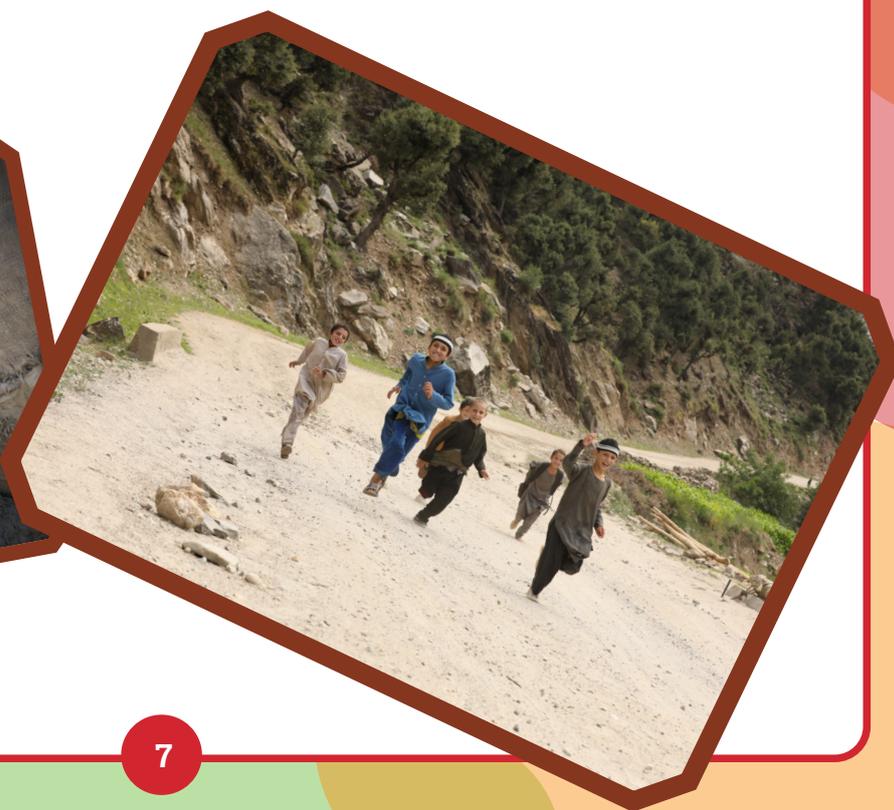


if they are not killed--the families will send them to a psychiatric hospital, a place where people with mental problems go for treatment. They send them to these hospitals because they think that Christians are crazy.

READ THEIR STORY:

Hello, my name is Abdul, and I am eight years old. My parents, brothers and I are Christians, but we can not tell anyone in our village. My grandfather and uncles kicked us out of the village where we were raised when my dad became a Christian. At first, my mom was very angry when she found out my dad was following the teachings of Jesus and not of Muhammad, the main prophet in Islam. But when she saw how much my dad changed, she also wanted to follow Jesus. Even though she was afraid of what our other family members would say, both my parents decided to give their lives to Jesus. They explained to my siblings and me that Jesus died for us on the cross. How could I not love Jesus after all He did for me? My parents tell us not to tell any of our friends that we are Christians and we have to meet in secret to pray. Fortunately, my parents know of one other family who live nearby and are also Christians. We meet once a month and pray together to God. It is my favourite day of the month, but I am still afraid for my parents. I don't want anyone to beat them, or us, like my grandfather did. My parents say that no matter what people say or do to us, it is always worth it to follow Jesus. I am very afraid at times, but I want to be as brave as them.

Creative prayer:





Try eating like people in Afghanistan. Prepare a meal and sit down on cushions on the floor. Eat only using your right hand and no cutlery. Once you have finished eating, pray for the Christians in Afghanistan.

“We are persecuted, but God does not leave us. We are hurt sometimes, but we are not destroyed.” – 2 Corinthians 4:9 (ICB)

PRAYER POINTS:

- Pray for protection for believers from those who want to hurt or kill them.
- Pray that despite COVID-19 isolation measures, secret believers will still be able to gather and learn together.
- Pray for courage and strength for believers who are rejected by their families and communities.
- Pray for believers to share about Jesus with those around them.

PRAY:

Dear Father, I pray for the people of Afghanistan. Please give them strength and courage to follow You. I pray that they will not be afraid but might feel You very close to them. I also pray for peace for this country; they really need Your peace. Please protect the children and families who are Christians. Thank you that even though they are persecuted You do not leave them. Thank you that You care for them and love them. Amen.

