

### *The Fellowship*

Chai is commonly made multiple times during the day. Indians often drink chai for breakfast, during the afternoon, and after dinner before bed. There is no wrong time to make chai and when you visit a home you will certainly drink chai. If you visit ten homes in a day you will drink ten cups of chai.

## South Asian Peoples

The greatest concentration of lostness on Earth

Bangladesh ~ Bhutan ~ India ~ Maldives  
Nepal ~ Pakistan ~ Sri Lanka  
and throughout the world

[www.go2SouthAsia.org](http://www.go2SouthAsia.org)  
[www.imb.org](http://www.imb.org)

# Together, Adorned for Prayer

*Women Interceding for  
South Asian Muslim Women*

## *Assalam Alaikum!*

*Peace be with you!* This is the typical greeting between Muslims in South Asia. Thank you for leading a group of women to pray for the Muslim women in South Asia.

This guide is designed to support the leader of a small group prayer time for South Asian Muslim women. Anyone who has an interest in praying for other women in need of the gospel can be a leader.

### *The Preparation*

1. As you prepare, pray that God will use this prayer time to move Christian women to pray for Muslim women and that ultimately, South Asian Muslim women would know the truth of the gospel.
2. Gather dupattas, or scarves, in at least four different colors (predominantly black, blue, white, and purple) and about 4-6 feet in length. The dupatta is worn across the shoulders or covering the head. Scarves should be long enough to cover your hair (past your shoulders) and hang over your shoulder about a foot. Practice putting on a dupatta before the meeting. (See *Wearing the Dupatta* in the participant's guide.)

For our purposes:

*Black* will represent barriers to the gospel.

*Blue* will represent missionaries who are working with Muslim women.

*White* will represent the way God reveals Himself through dreams and visions.

*Purple* will represent the persecuted believers of Muslim background.

3. Before your meeting, gather information on people groups.

Visit [www.maps.peoplegroups.info](http://www.maps.peoplegroups.info) and enter your city or zip code. Click "search map" and then click "radius search" on the left. You will get information about the people groups in your area. This will be helpful information to pass along to the participants of your group.

For additional information about South Asian Muslim women, visit the following websites:

[www.imb.org/compassionnet](http://www.imb.org/compassionnet)  
[www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net)

4. Read through the guide and story, especially *The Meeting* section. Become familiar with it. Feel free to make adjustments that would be beneficial for your specific group.
5. Decide whether to split the women into groups or remain one large group, depending upon the number of expected participants.
6. Practice making chai (milk tea). (See *Masala Chai* recipe in the participant's guide.) Nearly any South Asian will serve chai when entertaining guests. It is synonymous with hospitality for the South Asian woman.



*Leader's Guide*

## The Meeting

1. Explain that the purpose of this meeting is not only to pray for South Asian Muslim women, but to connect with them as fellow women and experience prayer and fellowship in the way that a South Asian woman would. Remind the participants that God loves Muslim women. You may want to ask if women have any relationships/experience with South Asian or Muslim women.
2. Introduce the dupattas and how you will be using them, as well as the significance of the colors. Explain that the purpose of using dupattas and drinking chai is to identify with two essential elements of life for South Asian women. You may want to discuss hospitality and fashion—how they relate to dupattas and chai, as well as any other unique aspects of feminine identity that go beyond ethnicity.
3. Share *The Story* provided in the leader's guide to your group. This is the testimony of a believer in South Asia with a Muslim background and should give insight into the differences that separate us from Muslims, both culturally and religiously. *Ask: How does the story of this woman's testimony help us understand South Asian Muslim women and their need for the gospel?*
4. Using the prayer guide, discuss what makes South Asian women unique—their needs, lives, countries—and how your group can minister to them through prayer. Stress the reality that

Muslim women in South Asia are one of the largest unreached people groups in the world. Share the information you have found about South Asians in your community/city. Remind women of the calling to be involved in the lives of those around them.

5. Follow the prayers and Scriptures provided (and any others that the Lord brings to mind), boldly asking God to reveal Himself to Muslim women in South Asia. Spend time focused in prayer together. Make this the bulk of your time with these women.
6. Instruct participants on how to use dupattas and distribute them among the group. Make sure that at least one woman prays with a dupatta and for each category of prayers (*Removing the Veil, Supporting Servants, Revealing Truth, and Suffering Believers*).
7. Allow for time to fellowship and drink chai together. (This can be at the beginning or the end.)
8. Feel free to give the dupattas away at the close of your meeting along with the participant's guide. You may also want to give women time to share about what this experience has meant to them. *Ask: How has your perspective on South Asian women changed? Will you commit to pray for them? What do you know about praying for them that you didn't know already? How can you get to know someone from South Asia for the purpose of sharing the gospel?*

## The Story

My father would read the Quran faithfully and say his prayers every day. Even though I was not a boy, I was determined to memorize large passages of the Quran in its original Arabic language to gain my father's approval. As a child, I learned quickly from the Quranic teaching that hell would be the punishment for my sins. Allah is vicious; he judges all wrongdoing with suitable penalty. As a result, I began to record every sin I committed. I soon felt overwhelmed by my sins, but I found no relief.

As the years passed, I continued trying to be a devout Muslim. Eventually I finished my schooling and married. I began to focus on my family and how to raise my children. I was out in the market, following my daily routine, when I noticed another woman looking at the same batch of tomatoes. We conversed easily and I invited her to my home for tea.

As we sat in my home and talked, I noticed she kept mentioning the name of Jesus. Of course, I had heard of Jesus. He is, after all, a most highly respected prophet in Islam. But I quickly found out that this woman was a follower of Jesus, a Christian. She was very bold and told me many things about being a Christian—how God had changed her life and how certain she was of His love for her.

I will admit I was upset at first and quickly set out to make defense of my own beliefs. I believed firmly in the truth of Islam and the prophet Muhammad. But, this did not keep us from being friends. One thing that struck me was that everything in her life came back to Jesus, and I was amazed at her devotion.

Slowly, I became more interested in hearing more about the Jesus she believed in and the Bible she talked so much about.

My husband also was curious to hear more; I would relate to him everything she said. It took years to finally make this decision, but we rejoice that God sent this friend to share the story of Jesus. Finally, we saw why we had never felt clean from our sins and knew that only Jesus can cleanse them from our hearts.

This was only the beginning of our journey as believers in Jesus. When our neighbors and community found out that we had become followers of Jesus, they began to ridicule us. Some men would argue with my husband and demand that our family return to practicing Islam. I worried for his safety throughout the day. The women of my community stopped visiting me and soon I felt alone and abandoned. My children were prohibited to attend the local school and many of their friends were forbidden to talk to them.

This was a very difficult time for my family. It was strange to feel so much peace from knowing Jesus, but so much separation and loneliness from the rejection by our friends. My husband and I tried to be examples of love and grace, like Jesus. After being ostracized for several years, our community slowly began to accept us back.

In my culture, where community is one of the most important things in life, life is still painful sometimes. But, my family and I are being obedient by following Jesus. Suffering will come to believers because of our decision to follow Jesus alone. The Bible tells us this will happen and so I expect it and live joyful in God anyway. He is my Provider, just as He has shown me through the years.