

SILENT NIGHT Prayer Box Activity

Pray for the Middle East and North Africa with your children this Christmas by putting together a special prayer box. You'll need a box (an old shoe box would work perfectly), as well as glue, scissors, scrap paper, glitter, and colouring pens. Use the information below to draw pictures, create models, find items, or write prayers to put inside the box – and as you do, pray for each country. The words in **bold** will give you quick ideas. You can cover the outside walls of your box with the flags of the four countries using the colouring sheet provided.



IRAN

Iran is one of the hardest places to be a Christian: most are not allowed to meet in church buildings or share their faith. But Christianity is spreading quickly as people meet secretly in small groups in houses!

IRAN IS FAMOUS FOR...

- **Art, history and poetry.** Can you write a poem or find a poem you like to include in the box?
- **Persian spices** like saffron, which is made from crocuses. Can you add a bag of spices, like cinnamon, cloves or cardamom, to your box?

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

- **House churches** in Iran to grow and multiply
- **Peace and freedom** in Iran
- SAT-7's programme *Sanctuary of the Heart*, which helps Christians to pray together and be strong.



ALGERIA

There are growing numbers of young families following Jesus in Algeria, but laws there make it difficult to meet in churches and own Bibles.

ALGERIA IS FAMOUS FOR...

- **The Sahara desert.** Can you draw a picture of a camel, or find a toy camel, to add to the box?
- **Dates, olives and clementines.** Can you find any of these – or use play dough to make some?

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

- **Churches** in Algeria to stay open and not be closed by the government.
- More **Arabic Bibles** and other Christian resources to help them grow in their faith.
- **Families**, children and young people watching SAT-7 to learn about and follow Jesus.



EGYPT

Around 10% of the population are Christians, but they face restrictions on practising their faith and are sometimes treated badly by others in their communities.

EGYPT IS FAMOUS FOR...

- **The Nile River.** Have you seen it on a map? Can you trace an image of it onto a drawing or even use tin foil to recreate its reflection?
- **The Pyramids of Giza.** Can you find anything pyramid shaped to put in your box?

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

- Egyptian Christians to **share their faith** and worship together safely.
- SAT-7's live **television programme** broadcast from Kasr El Dohara church each week, which encourages Christians all over Egypt – and beyond.



TÜRKIYE

Less than 1% of the population are Christians; many Turkish people have never heard the Gospel at all.

TÜRKIYE IS FAMOUS FOR...

- **Sweet treats** such as baklava (pastry with honey and nuts) and Turkish Delight. Could you find a few nuts to put in the box?
- **St Nicholas**, a famous Turkish bishop from the third century – the inspiration behind Father Christmas. Could you draw him?
- **Turkish patterned carpets and rugs.** You could make a mini rug for the bottom of your box.

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

- More people in Türkiye to **search for God** and find out about Him
- Turkish people who lost their loved ones or homes in the earthquakes.

For a video explainer as well as more facts and prayer points on the four countries, visit the Advent Resources page at www.sat7uk.org/advent-resources