



The Jambi Malay

SEVEN-DAY PRAYER GUIDE

Day 1

A Cut Above the Rest

“... a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not a cutting of the body but a change of heart produced by God’s Spirit ...” Romans 2:29 NLT

The Jambi Malay have great reverence for the teachings of their religion. One example of this is Jambi’s traditional public circumcision ceremony, which is held once a year in Jambi City. Dozens of boys, each 8 years old, will gather at a local venue suitable for the community to join in. This particular occasion is a government-sponsored event for poor and orphaned boys. In this way the community is seen as looking after those who are less fortunate. Naturally, it is a painful experience for each boy, but it is seen as a compulsory act of religion, and therefore cannot be avoided. Circumcision is mentioned in Islam’s holy book, the Qur’an, and is a required act.

Prayer Points

- Pray Jambi’s emphasis on community will lead to group conversions.
- Pray for God to reveal that His desire for the Jambi is not for the religious acts or ceremonies in which they participate, but for a personal relationship with Him.
- As the Jambi care for the less fortunate, pray the servant heart of Christ is revealed.



Day 2

Father of the Neighborhood

“I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” 2 Corinthians 6:18 NIV

Ishmael is the traditional leader of Neighborhood Unit 12. He is responsible for the 50 households who reside there. In a time of crisis or concern, he is the one that guides the community. He knows each member of his community personally. To many, he is simply known as Pak. “Our relationship is like a Father and his children. I am the Father and they are my children.” Fathers are not paid to care for their children; neighborhood leaders are not paid to care for the community. Both jobs are done with the same motivation: the safety and well-being of the “children.” Ishmael spends many hours settling disputes and dispensing advice. He is never off duty, and interruptions come at any time. Ishmael considers this responsibility an honor and will continue to do it until another leader is elected.

Prayer Points

- Pray that the people would know their heavenly Father and that they are His children.
- Pray that God would reveal himself to the leaders in Jambi and use them to spread the gospel throughout entire communities.
- Pray the Jambi Malay will find eternal safety and well-being in their one, true Father.

Day 3

Free Time

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31 NIV

After a long day of class, Siska (sis-kah) is ready to relax. She gathers her supplies and makes the walk to Henni’s (hen-knee) house, her friend from primary school. The radio blasts the latest hits as they pull their looms close together to permit private conversation. The two friends whisper about school assignments, the upcoming break, and secret boyfriends while embroidering a deep crimson curtain with gold thread and beadwork. Henni’s uncle, the neighborhood leader, encourages the girls’ project by stating, “It is better than staring at one another.” The afternoon is a time of leisure for the Jambi Malay. As the leader of the neighborhood, he encourages the villagers to spend their time productively. For this reason, men play chess or sports, or converse while drinking orange juice, as women participate in girl talk and create handcrafts.

Prayer Points

- Pray that Siska and Henni’s actions will be motivated by a desire to bring glory to God.
- Pray the gospel will spread through Jambi’s daily, natural interactions as they share free time together.
- Praise God for the relationships that Jambi share. Pray they will honor God with unity and encouraging friendships.

Day 4

No More Obligations to God

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV

As you enter Haji Sayid (hah-gee sah-yeed) and Hajjah Nurul's (hah-jah noo-rool) home, your eyes are immediately drawn to the photos on the wall. There are five pillars of Islam, Nurul informs her guests. First, you must profess belief in one god, Allah, and that Mohammed is his prophet. Second, you must pray five times a day. Third, you must give alms to the poor. Fourth, you must fast during the month of Ramadan. Finally, if you are financially able, you must make the pilgrimage to Mecca known as the *hajj* (hajj). This couple received their titles upon making the *hajj* several years ago. For this reason, they are greatly respected in the community. Hajjah Nurul finds peace in adhering to the last pillar. "I feel comfortable—knowing that I don't owe any obligations to Allah because I have fulfilled all five pillars."

Prayer Points

- Please pray that the people of Jambi would see their own sinfulness and their need for a Savior.
- Please pray that the people of Jambi would find freedom from legalism in the grace and mercy of Isa al Masih, Jesus the Messiah.
- Pray the Jambi will be open to salvation in Christ with no "pillars" attached.



Day 5

Not on My Behalf

"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ, who gave himself as a ransom for all men..." 1 Timothy 2:5-6 NIV

Because Yusuf (Yoo-soof) believes in Islam, he does not believe the *dukun* (doo-koon, traditional healer) has any power. To believe in a *dukun*, Yusuf explains, would make one a polytheist. "The *dukun* is a mediator—he prays to God and you are healed because of God." The *dukun* himself does not have power. Although many people say they no longer believe that the *dukun* has power, many in Yusuf's village go to the *dukun* for answers about inexplicable or evil occurrences, for healing of sickness, and for amulets for protection of a child.

Prayer Points

- Pray that the people's recognition of a need for a mediator will lead them to see why Jesus' work on the cross was necessary.
- Pray that the people would trust in Jesus as the all knowing, healing and protecting God and would seek his face alone for answers.

Day 6

Heartfelt Greeting

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9 NIV

Abdullah (Ahb-dull-ah) sits enjoying the evening breeze on the porch when his neighbor Sulaiman (Soo-lay-mahn) arrives to discuss the day's activities. Both men have spent a long day in the fields. Abdullah quickly stands; the two men squeeze hands and touch their chests. In this simple greeting much is said. First, there is the meaning of friendship and commonality. The touching of the chest represents the deep sense of love that comes from the heart. This greeting also contains a plea for forgiveness of any wrongs that have been

done in the past or will be done in the future. Once the greeting has been exchanged, the two friends pass the time playing chess.

Prayer Points

- Pray that the people's longing for forgiveness between earthly relationships would lead them to know Jesus who has forgiven all their past and future sins.
- Pray that God would convert whole communities and that the gospel would spread through friendships.
- The bond of friendship is extremely strong among the Jambi Malay. Pray for a binding relationship between the Jambi and Christ, stronger than the bond between friends.

Day 7

A New Generation

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:11 NIV

A group of university students has gathered between classes. During the discussion, a question arises about Islamic teaching. Hadi (ha-dee), an English major, pulls his hand phone out of his pocket. Hadi has entered portions of the Qur'an into his hand phone for such an occasion. He begins scrolling through text, finds the corresponding passage, and answers the question. He sends text messages from the Qur'an to his friends throughout the day to encourage and challenge them. Although not all young people are as devout as Hadi, many still keep the religious traditions of their parents.

Prayer Points

- Pray that as the young people of Jambi seek the truth of God in the Qur'an they will be led to the truth of Isa al Masih, Jesus the Messiah.
- Pray that young believers in Isa al Masih will have the courage to share boldly with their friends and classmates.