



*Middle East*  
Culture Kit

**SIM**



## SIM Purpose Statement

Convinced that no one should live and die without hearing God's good news, we believe that He has called us to make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in communities where He is least known.

[www.simusa.org](http://www.simusa.org)

© SIMUSA

All images are representative  
images sourced from Canva.

# ◇ Contents



2

CULTURE KIT  
INTRODUCTION

---

3

MIDDLE EAST  
INFORMATION PAGES

---

22

SHARING HOPE: FAMILY  
ENGAGEMENT IDEAS

---

23

PRAY FOR  
THE MIDDLE EAST

---

24

CRAFT PAGES

---

26

STUDENT ACTIVITY  
PAGES

# ◇ Middle East Culture Kit



## *Dear Teacher or Parent*

Thank you for your interest in teaching children about missions! This kit is designed to introduce children to the beautiful diversity in our world, hoping that they might develop a passion to cross barriers and love people living and dying without Jesus.

## *Learn*

This kit contains information about the Middle East as well as activity pages, games, craft ideas and visual aids. This resource will work in family settings or larger groups such as Sunday School or VBS. For many of the sections there are corresponding activities or crafts. Look through the whole kit before you begin to make sure you have materials you need for the activities you decide to use. The information is broken up into small chunks, so you can choose what you want to share or use it as unit study over a longer period of time.

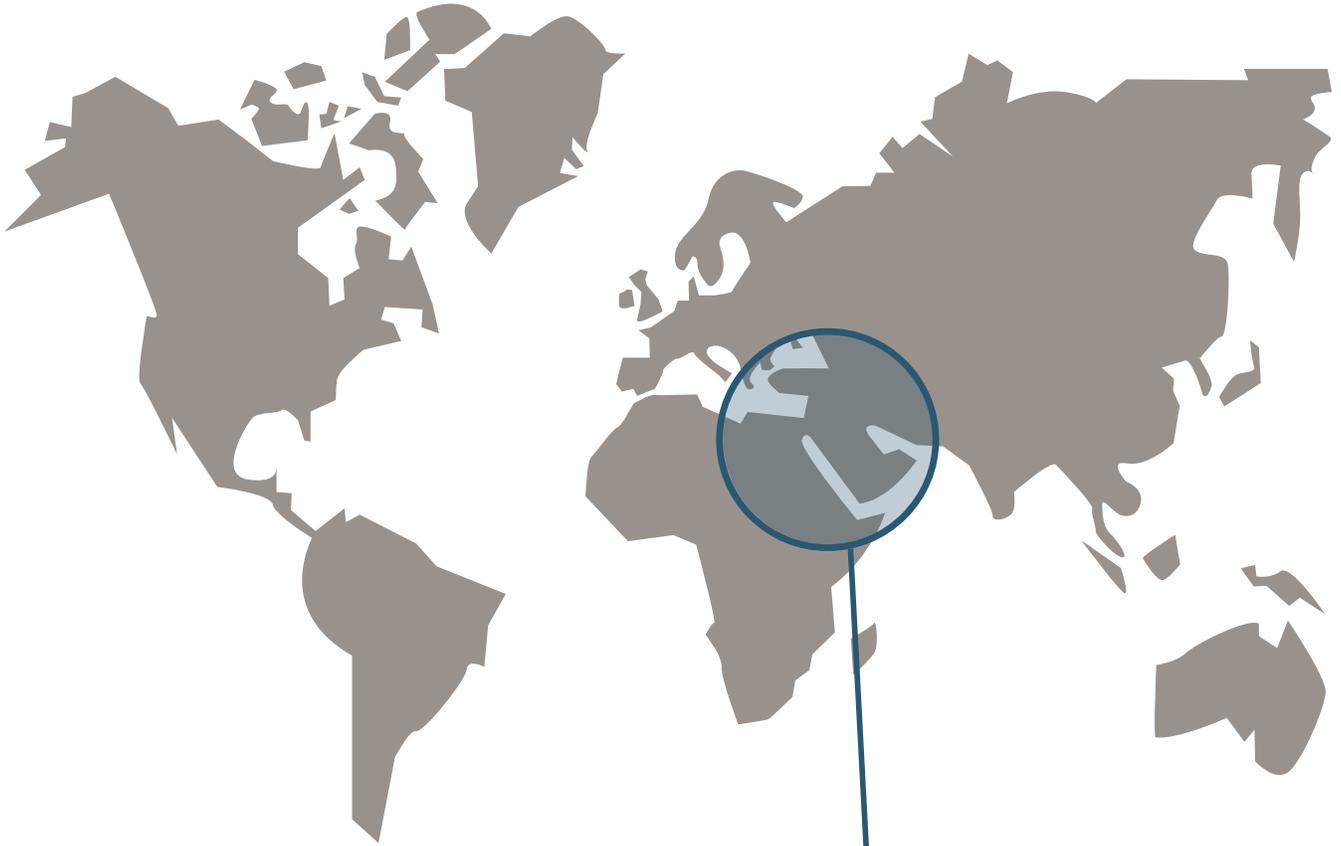
## *Inspire*

Encourage children to follow Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations by praying for people who don't yet know Him in the Middle East. Brainstorm creative ways to join in the Great Commission with the children. Remind them that anyone who loves Jesus can share His Good News with the people around them.

## *Matthew 28:19-20*

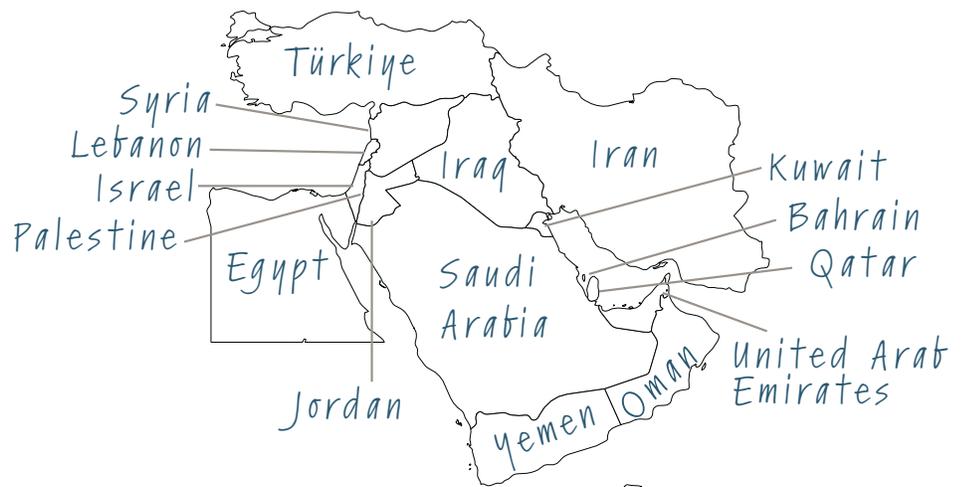
"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

# ◇ Where is the Middle East?



## Middle East

The Middle East, once referred to as the Near East, sits at the intersection of Asia, Africa, and Europe. The nations that make up the Middle East vary somewhat from source to source. For this study, we'll focus on some of the countries listed here.



# ◇ Middle East



## *Cradle of Civilisation*

The Middle East is often called the “Cradle of Civilisation.” It is the location of the first recorded human interactions and the location of the earliest Bible stories. It is also the birthplace of the world’s three monotheistic (believing in one god) religions: **Judaism, Islam,** and Christianity, known as the “**Abrahamic Religions**”.

## *Mesopotamia*

The ancient land of Mesopotamia was home to the first known civilisations. Its name means “land between two rivers” since it’s located between the Euphrates and the Tigris rivers. The Euphrates river is mentioned as early as the second chapter of Genesis when talking about the rivers that watered the Garden of Eden. Many important biblical cities are found in this area including Ur, Nineveh, and Babylon. Essential inventions came out of the Mesopotamian culture including the wheel, basic agriculture, and the first written language.

## *Population*

This vast area of 3.82 million square miles contains at least 16 individual nations and territories. The population of nearly 700 million people is predominantly **Muslim** in faith. However only 20% of the global Muslim population lives in the Middle East. The Middle East is a vibrant, bustling region with a predominantly young population who live in growing urban centres.

# ◇ Land & Climate



## Climate

The majority of the Middle East has a desert climate with temperatures reaching 49°C (120°F) in the hot season. In winter the average temperature is in the 20's (70's F).

## Deserts

The Middle East is home to many of the world's largest deserts. The Syrian Desert covers 500,000 square kilometers (193,000 square miles) and runs through parts of the countries of Syria, Jordan, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia. The Arabian Desert, which stretches from Yemen to the Persian Gulf, and Oman to Jordan, covers 2,330,000 square kilometers (899,618 square miles). The Sahara Desert of North Africa consumes 9,200,000 square kilometers (3,552,140 square miles) and is the largest "hot desert" in the world.

## Water

Despite all the desert area, the Middle East also boasts lots of water. The Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Caspian Sea, Arabian Sea, and Red Sea, are all large bodies of water within and surrounding the Middle East. The Suez Canal, Gulf of Suez, and Persian Gulf are smaller bodies of water which offer shipping capabilities around the Arabian Peninsula. The Nile River as well as the previously mentioned Tigris and Euphrates River make up important waterways through land.

# ◇ Abrahamic Religions



## *Abraham*

Abraham was called by God (Genesis 12) out of Ur of the Chaldeans, which is in modern day Iraq. God took Abraham on a long journey south and west of his original home in Ur to what would be called "The Promised Land," in modern day Israel. He was given a promise that he would become the father of many nations. In his old age he became impatient with God and conceived a son, Ishmael, through a servant, rather than waiting on God for His timing. Thirteen years later God gave him the son he had promised with his wife Sarah. Isaac grew up to be the father of Jacob whom the Lord called "Israel".

## *Judaism & Christianity*

Over the course of hundreds of years Judaism (named after Abraham's great-grandson Judah) became the name of the religion followed by Israel. Over 1,000 years later with the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (from the tribe of Judah) Christianity became a world religion. Jesus was born in the city of Bethlehem in modern day Palestine. God chose this region of the world to hold some of the most important events in all of history.

## *Islam*

God did not forget about Ishmael, however. He had promised Abraham that his first born son, though illegitimate, would also be great. In the year 570 A.D. (more than 500 years after Jesus' resurrection) the prophet **Muhammad**, who is believed to be a descendant of Ishmael, was born in the city of Mecca in modern day Saudi Arabia. He is said to have received revelation from God (Allah) that began the religion of Islam. The followers of Islam are known as **Muslims**.

# ◇ Egypt



## *Egypt's Life Source*

The Arab Republic of Egypt is the one country in North Africa that everyone agrees is part of the Middle East. With the Mediterranean Sea on the north and the Suez Canal that connects the Mediterranean to the Red Sea, Egypt has been a hub for the trade route of Africa, Asia, and Europe for thousands of years. The Nile river, which cuts through Egypt and makes its way from Lake Victoria in Uganda to the Mediterranean Sea, is the main source of life for much of Egypt. Egypt is the most populated country in the Arab world, with nearly all of Egypt's 101 million people living in the Nile basin or delta region.

## *Capital of Egypt*

Cairo, the capital of Egypt, is the largest city in all of the Middle East. It is a mixture of modern city and ancient architecture. Located only about 9 or 10 miles from the ancient pyramids of Giza, this city, which sits on the Nile River, makes an excellent tourist destination to explore modern and historical locations.

## *Challenges*

The population of Egypt is divided nearly in half economically with one half living on daily wages and the other half in elite wealthy society. With 27.8% of people living under the poverty line, another challenge is that the job market is very bleak. Even many well-educated Egyptians are unable to find work in their fields of study or make so little, a second job is required to live.

*Nile River Tour Video: Smart Productions*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dm8945K4dH0>

# ◇ Egypt

## Egypt in the Bible

Biblical accounts place Abraham in Egypt about 2,000 BC. Genesis 12 tells us that, due to a famine in the land of Canaan, Abraham fled to Egypt for a time. Later, due again to famine, the Israelites ended up in Egypt where they eventually became slaves. Moses, an Israelite raised in the palace as an Egyptian, was given the responsibility of leading God's people out of Egypt. Jesus, as an infant, lived in Egypt for a few years to escape the persecution of King Herod.

## Religion in Egypt

Ancient Egyptians were **polytheists** who believed in many gods. All formal religious rituals revolved around the Pharaohs, (kings) who were believed to possess divine powers. Common gods worshiped were Ra, the sun god, Amon, the creator, and Isis, the mother goddess. Egyptian Christians believe that after Jesus' resurrection the Apostle Mark brought Christianity to Egypt, and Egypt was greatly influenced by Christianity before the 7th century. Today Egypt's Christians make up an estimated 10% of the current population (around 10 million people) and are an important presence in the area. Islam is the official religion in Egypt and accounts for the vast majority of the population.



# ◇ Saudi Arabia



## Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is located in a vast desert of 2,149,690 square kilometers (about 830,000 square miles.) With a population of approximately 35 million, Saudi Arabia is significantly less densely populated than Egypt, with about 6 people per square mile. Around 84% of the population live in urban areas. Riyadh, the capital city, has historically been an ultra-conservative Wahhabi Muslim culture. **Wahhabism** was founded in the 18th century and is the most conservative Muslim group. Jeddah, on the western Red Sea coast, is more liberal.

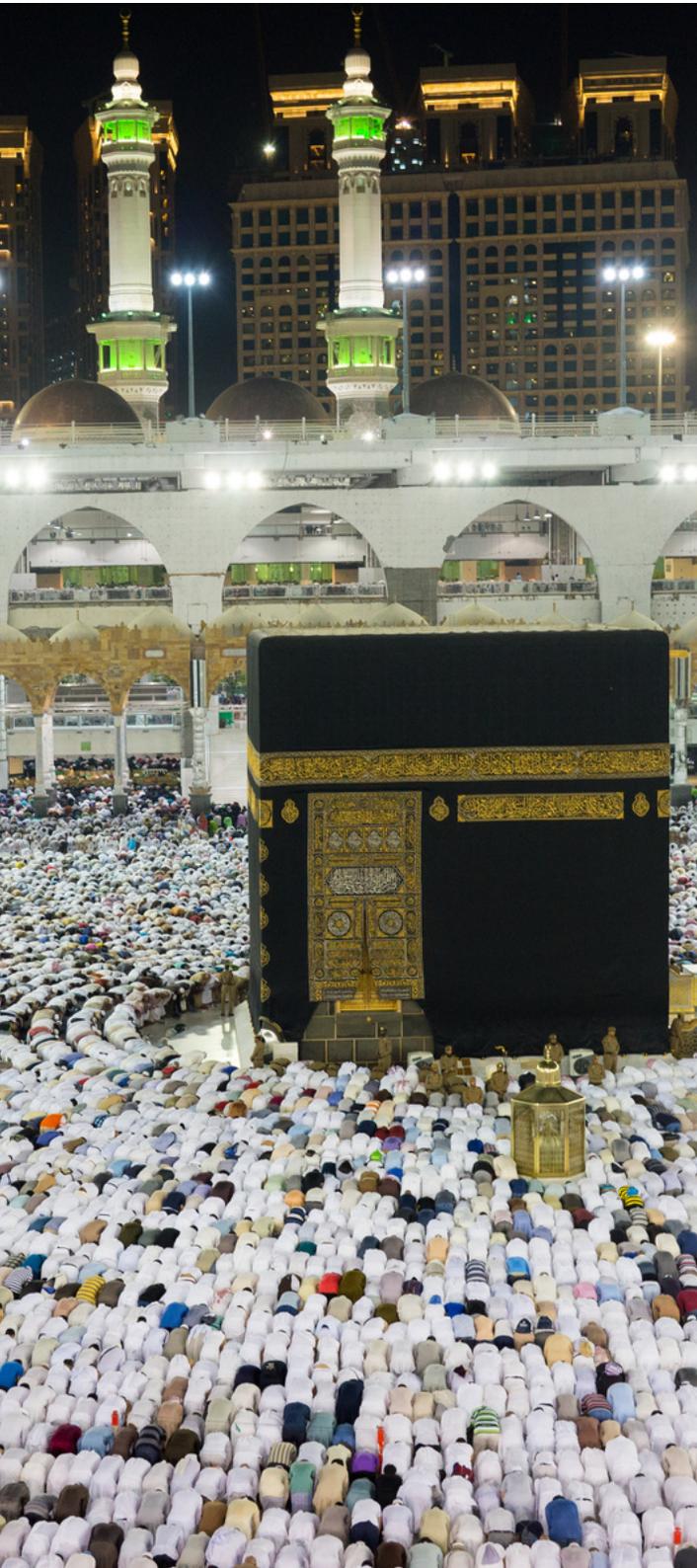
## Women's Rights

Traditionally, women have faced many restrictions. In public, a woman's clothing must cover her from head to toe. They've not been allowed to travel, work, marry, or in some cases even leave their homes without the permission of a male relative (*mahram*). But greater freedom is now being introduced. Women are allowed to drive and more women now have jobs.

## Economy

Saudi Arabia has been a very wealthy country since the discovery of vast amounts of crude oil beneath the sand in the 1930s. However currently 80% of the workforce are from other countries, and the petroleum resources are being depleted. Recognising this as a limited resource, an ambitious economic plan, Vision 2030, has been introduced to create more diverse opportunities in the economy.

# ◇ Saudi Arabia



## *al-Saud Family*

Members of the al-Saud family have been the ruling monarchs since the country gained independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1932. The country has no constitution but is bound by the **Quran** and **Sharia law**. Political parties are illegal and the al-Saud princes head all key governmental posts.

## *The Birth of Islam*

In 571 AD Muhammad, the founder of the Islamic religion, was born in the city of Mecca in modern day Saudi Arabia. At the age of 40 Muhammad claimed to have been visited by the angel Gabriel who gave him revelations from **Allah**, (the Arabic word for God) which are now recorded in the Quran. Although initially met with hostility, Muhammad was eventually hailed as a great prophet, and his following grew. Several military victories as well as growing popularity of his teaching led to nearly the entire Arabian Peninsula embracing Islam by the time of Muhammad's death in Medina at the age of 62.

## *Mecca & Medina*

The Quran and the teaching of Muhammad form the basis for the culture of the Saudi people. Both the cities of Mecca and Medina are revered for their connection with the Prophet Muhammad. Each year thousands of Muslims make the **Hajj pilgrimage** to Mecca as required by the Quran. In Mecca, the **Kaaba**, or cube (pictured left) is built around a sacred stone believed to have been placed by Abraham and Ishmael as a sign of the covenant with Allah.

## ◇ Israel



### Israel

Only slightly larger than the U.S. state of New Jersey, Israel has been a battleground for most of its short modern history as an independent nation. Following the **holocaust** and the killing of 6 million Jews throughout Europe during World War II, the nation of Israel was established in the land of Palestine that was governed by the British. Though Israel is small, it has a strong economy. Tourism, information technology, diamond exports, and pharmaceuticals are all major contributors to Israel's economic growth. Of the 8,632,000 people in Israel, 74.5% are Jewish, 17.8% are Muslim, and only about 2% are Christian.

### Clothing

Most of the population of Israel dress in western clothing. Some traditional Jewish married women wear a *mitpachat*, which in Hebrew means headscarf. Boys and men may be seen wearing a *kippah*, which is Hebrew for skullcap.

### Jewish Diaspora

Though the history of the Jewish people in the Middle East dates back to Abraham, its people had been scattered far and wide after their temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD. For most of the nearly 2000-year exile, the people of Israel longed for the Promised Land that the Lord had pledged to give the children of Israel. The **Passover Seder** and the **Yom Kippur** services often ended in longing with the phrase "Next year in Jerusalem."

Jerusalem Old City Tour Video: Gabriel Traveler  
<https://youtu.be/BanxqagThQI>

# Israel



## Tense History

When the modern day nation of Israel was established in 1948 the Palestinians were given a divided land; the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This put the holy city of Jerusalem in an area shared by both the Israeli Jews and the Palestinian Arabs, which has continued to create tension. The old city is divided into 4 quarters: Muslim, Jewish, Christian, and Armenian (though Armenians are also considered Christians), and is regarded as holy by all 4 groups.

## Jesus

Christians revere the city of Jerusalem as the place where Jesus Christ was tried, crucified, buried, and resurrected. Many Christians visit Jerusalem to celebrate Jesus' victory over sin and death and walk the streets He walked.

## Dome of the Rock

The Dome of the Rock, a Muslim holy site, sits on the area once occupied by the Jewish Temple. Its location is believed by Muslims to be both the place where Abraham was prepared to offer his son (Jews/Christians say Isaac, Muslims say Ishmael) as a sacrifice to God and where Muhammad ascended to Heaven.

## Wailing Wall

The Western Wall (Wailing Wall,) on the Temple Mount, is the only part of the Jewish Temple expansion by King Herod still standing following the destruction of the temple in 70 AD by the Romans. Jews and Christians alike visit the wall daily by the hundreds to offer their prayers, often written on small pieces of paper and slipped into the cracks between the stones.

# ◇ Türkiye



## *Ottoman Empire*

Located mainly on the **Anatolian peninsula** in Western Asia, Türkiye is in a strategic location between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea and is the bridge between Europe and Asia. This area was heavily influenced by multiple invasions of various empires throughout history. The rise of one of the world's most successful empires, the Ottoman Empire, began in this region as the Byzantine (Eastern Roman) Empire was beginning to crumble. The Ottoman empire spread throughout Asia, Africa, and parts of eastern Europe and lasted 623 years.

## *Secular Government*

Politically, the Republic of Türkiye is secular, meaning through its constitution, the government remains religiously neutral. However, some laws still restrict religious expression. For instance, until 2008, the use of head coverings by Muslim women in public was prohibited. Due to the rise of the Justice and Development Party, a constitutional amendment was passed to allow female students on college campuses to wear the traditional **hijab** as a symbol of their faith.

## *Rich Cultural History*

Türkiye is one of the world's top ten tourist destinations, partially due to its diverse cultural history and beautiful architecture. Göbekli Tepe, the site of the oldest known man-made religious structure, is also found in Turkey. The more rural eastern parts of Türkiye still retain much of the rich artistic and cultural influences of their ancestors while the urban areas of western Türkiye are much more multicultural and diverse.

# ◇ Türkiye



## *Türkiye in the Bible*

Many of the places mentioned in the Bible are in what is now the country of Türkiye. In the New Testament, early church leaders Paul and Barnabas brought the gospel to Türkiye, then known as Asia Minor. Paul wrote letters to the churches in Ephesus, Galatia, and Colossae, which were all within the area now called Türkiye. The “seven churches” of John’s Revelation were also in modern day Türkiye.

## *Noah's Ark*

Interestingly, modern day Türkiye was mentioned in the Bible long before the New Testament. The book of Genesis tells the story of early humanity, which contains the story of Noah and the Ark, which is believed to have occurred around 2,500 BC. The Bible states that after the flood, as the waters receded, the Ark came to rest in the mountains of Ararat. Mount Ararat is the highest point in Türkiye and is located near present day Iran and Armenia. Archeological exploration of the area in the 1980s gave strong evidence for the discovery of the remains of the Ark about 15 miles below the summit of Mt. Ararat.

## *Religion in Türkiye*

This place where the followers of Jesus Christ were first called “Christians” is now 99% Muslim. However there are a growing number of believers and churches in Türkiye. Islam was introduced to the region during the Islamic Golden age in the 8th century and eventually became the majority religion.

*Noah's Ark Identification: Kerrigan Skelly*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQwfu7DvUyE>

# ◇ Middle Eastern Cuisine



## Egypt

Egyptian cuisine uses legumes, vegetables, and fruits from the rich Nile Valley region. Pitta bread, known locally as *aish baladi*, is a staple of Egyptian cuisine. For centuries Egyptians have been making cheese, which is thought to have originated in the Middle East. If you visit Egypt, be sure to have some tea, which is the national beverage.

## Saudi Arabia

In Saudi Arabia, Islamic dietary laws are enforced, so all food must be *halal*, which means allowed by law. Nearly every meal is accompanied by flat taboon bread, dates, fresh fruit, yoghurt and hummus. Meat is also served in the form of *shwarma*, (marinated grilled chicken, lamb or mutton) or *kebabs*, which are cut up or ground meat often on a skewer with vegetables.

## Israel

Around half of Jewish-Israeli people eat only kosher foods, which are prepared following Jewish dietary laws. Jewish food today incorporates local Middle Eastern food such as *hummus*, *couscous*, and *falafel*, as well as food brought in by the Jewish Diaspora from around the world like pizza, salad and rice dishes.

## Türkiye

Modern day Turkish cuisine was largely influenced by the Ottoman Empire. Staples in the Turkish diet include yoghurt salads, fish in olive oil, sherbet, and stuffed or wrapped vegetables.

# ◇ Falafel



## *Ingredients*

16 oz can garbanzo beans (chickpeas),  
drained  
1 large onion, finely chopped  
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped  
3 T fresh parsley, chopped  
1 tsp coriander  
1 tsp cumin  
2 T flour  
1 tsp salt  
Pepper  
Oil for frying

## *Instructions*

Place the beans in a medium saucepan with enough water to cover them. Bring to a boil over medium heat and boil 5 minutes. Reduce heat and simmer for 1 hour adding water as needed to keep the beans covered. Drain and cool 15 minutes. Combine beans, garlic, and onions in a food processor and blend well. Add spices to the flour and then add it to the bean mixture. Blend just until mixed together. Form small balls about the size of ping pong balls. Fry in 2" of cooking oil heated to 350°F until golden brown. Serve hot.



# Pitta Bread



## Ingredients

- ¼ oz dry active yeast
- ½ cup warm water (not too hot)
- 1 tsp sugar
- 3 cup flour
- ¼ tsp salt
- 1 cup warm water

## Instructions

Stir yeast into ½ cup warm water. Add sugar and allow to rest for 10-15 minutes (it should start to be foamy.) Combine flour and salt in a medium bowl. Make a small depression in the centre of the flour. Stir in yeast with a wooden spoon or spatula until completely blended. Knead 10-15 minutes. Place dough in a large, well-oiled bowl, turn. Cover with a towel or plastic wrap, Allow to sit for 3 hours or until doubled in size.

Roll into a tube and cut into 12 equal pieces. Cover and let sit for 10 minutes. Preheat oven to 500° F. Place the oven rack at the lowest position. Form each piece into a ball and roll out each ball to ¼" thick. Place on parchment lined cookie sheet. Bake 4 minutes, turn, and bake 2 more minutes. Bread will puff up. While hot you can gently press it down with a spoon. Allow to cool.

Pitta bread can be served alone, dipped in houmous, or split and filled with a variety of meats, vegetables, or cheeses.



## Ghoraibi

### Ingredients

4 sticks of unsalted butter, room temperature  
1 cup powdered sugar  
1 cup granulated sugar  
4 cup all-purpose flour  
2 cup blanched almond halves  
1 tsp almond extract  
1 tsp salt

### Instructions

Preheat oven to 300° F. Beat butter and all sugars for 5 minutes until fluffy. Add almond extract. Combine salt into flour. Slowly add a little flour at a time (stand mixer works best) until all the flour has been added to the butter and sugar mixture. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 1 hour. Roll out the chilled dough on a well-floured surface. Roll into a 1 ½" to 2" thick rope. Cut into 1/2" cookies. Place on an ungreased cookie sheet. Place almond half in the center of each cookie and bake for 10-12 minutes until lightly brown.





# Vocabulary

**Abrahamic Religions:** Belief systems including Judaism, Christianity and Islam that believe God revealed himself to Abraham and trace their origins to one of the sons of Abraham, Isaac or Ishmael.

**Allah:** Arabic word for God.

**Anatolian Peninsula:** Also called Asia Minor, the peninsula of land that today constitutes the Asian portion of Turkey.

**Hajj Pilgrimage:** The pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia, which every adult Muslim must make at least once in his or her lifetime.

**Hijab:** A head covering worn in public by some Muslim women.

**Holocaust:** The systematic state-sponsored killing of six million Jewish men, women, and children and millions of others by Nazi-Germany and its collaborators during World War II.

**Islam:** The religious faith of **Muslims**, based on the words and religious system founded by the prophet Muhammad and taught by the Quran (Koran).

**Judaism:** The world's oldest monotheistic religion, believing in one God who revealed himself to the nation of Israel. Most Jews (with the exception of a few groups) believe that their Messiah hasn't yet come—but will one day.

**Kaaba:** The cube-shaped shrine located near the centre of the Great Mosque in Mecca and considered by Muslims to be the most sacred spot on Earth.

**Muhammad:** Viewed as the final prophet of God in all the main branches of Islam.

**Passover Seder:** The religious meal served in Jewish homes to begin the festival of Passover commemorating the deliverance of the Jewish people from Egyptian bondage in the days of Moses.

**Polytheist:** Worship of or belief in multiple gods.

**Quran (Koran):** The sacred book of the Islamic faith believed to be the word of God given to the prophet Mohammad by the archangel Gabriel.

**Sharia Law:** Religious law forming part of the Islamic tradition derived from the religious precepts of Islam, particularly the Quran and the hadith.

**Wahhabism:** Islamic reform movement founded by Muḥammad ibn ʿAbd al-Wahhāb in the 18th century, insisting on literal translation of the Quran.

**Yom Kippur:** Also known as the Day of Atonement, is the holiest day of the year in Judaism.

## ◇ Games



### *Ghommamah-Saudi Arabia*

*Ghommamah* is a popular children's game in Saudi Arabia. A player is blind-folded and other children run around them trying to avoid being touched. If the child who is "it" touches a child, he/she tries to guess who the child is. If correct that child becomes it.

### *Three Sticks-Israel*

In this Israeli game, three sticks are placed side by side. A child jumps over the sticks, making sure not to touch any of them. After each jump the sticks are spread further and further apart until the child can no longer jump over them.

*Fashkhah* is a similar game played by children in Saudi Arabia in which two children sit on the ground side by side with their legs touching. Then children take turns jumping over their legs. After each jump they then spread their legs further apart and continue until the child can no longer jump over their legs.

### *Stepping on Shadows-Turkey*

Stepping on Shadows is a game of tag played on sunny days in Turkey. The person who is "it" tries to step on the shadows of the other players. When a shadow is stepped on, that person is "it." The game can also be played like freeze tag where the person whose shadow is stepped on is frozen until someone sets them free.

# ◇ God's Word for a Kid Like You



## God's Word

The transforming power of God's Word should never be underestimated. In the Middle East there's an education centre dedicated to serving refugee children through education and sharing Hope with them. Life for refugee families, who have been forced to flee their homes in order to be safe, can be very difficult. The conditions in refugee camps are challenging and resources, like quality education, are often not available. In this education centre, one child from each of the 27 families served were given Bibles in their heart language, Arabic. For most families, this was the first time they were able to read God's Story in their own language.

All of the children happily took their new treasure home with them, so it was a surprise to find the same Bible on one student's desk the next day. When the teacher asked why the student had brought the Bible back, he explained that he and his mother had spent all evening reading it, and he was so excited to continue reading that he brought it to school to read it on his break. The rest of the class chimed in and told stories about how they had read it with their parents and loved it, too. One of the children's fathers was already applying lessons he learned from the story of Joseph to his own life.

The gift of God's Word continues to open doors for teachers to have conversations about who Jesus is, as the stories in God's Word continue to impact the children and their families.

## Isaiah 55:10-11

*As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*

## ◇ Sharing Hope



### *Muslim Neighbours*

As you build relationships with Muslim people in your community, it's important to represent Christ well by sharing His love. Emphasising the things in common between Islam and Christianity is a good place to start. Muslims may believe that Jesus (Isa) was a great prophet, and the Quran teaches that Jesus is the Messiah. Unfortunately, many bad things done in the name of Christ by Christians have led Muslims to believe that Christians are sinners and they often reject Christ because of it. As you do life with your Muslim friends, ask God for opportunities to share John 14:6, where Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No One comes to the Father except through Me."

### *Family Engagement Ideas*

- ◇ 1 *Pray*  
Set aside one day to pray for the Muslim world 5 times (before sunrise, midday, late afternoon, just after sunset, between sunset and midnight).
- ◇ 2 *Reach Out*  
Reach out to a stranger and develop a friendship with them. Learn about them by listening to their life story.
- ◇ 3 *Share a Story*  
Share your testimony about God's goodness and your personal relationship with Him with a friend or family member.

# ◇ Pray for the Middle East



1

## Peace

Pray for peace between people of different faiths. Pray for unity in diversity and for safe communities.

2

## Muslim People

Pray that people who follow Islam would come to know Jesus (*Isa* in Arabic) as more than a prophet, but as the Way, the Truth and the Life. Pray that they would become followers of *Isa*.

3

## Believers

Pray for Christians in the Middle East to love their neighbours well and to share the hope of Jesus with them, especially during times of challenge.

4

## Kids Like You

Pray for Middle Eastern children who don't yet know Jesus. Ask God to protect them and give them faithful people in their lives to point them to Jesus.

## Gold Jewellery

Gold Jewellery making has been an art form in Egypt since ancient times. The Pharaohs of old valued gold so highly they were often buried with their treasures. Both men and women wore ornate gold jewellery in ancient Egypt. Still today gold is used in making jewellery and other fine pieces of art.

### *You'll need:*

Pre-cut and prepared tin cans

Liquid glue

Gold paint/spray paint

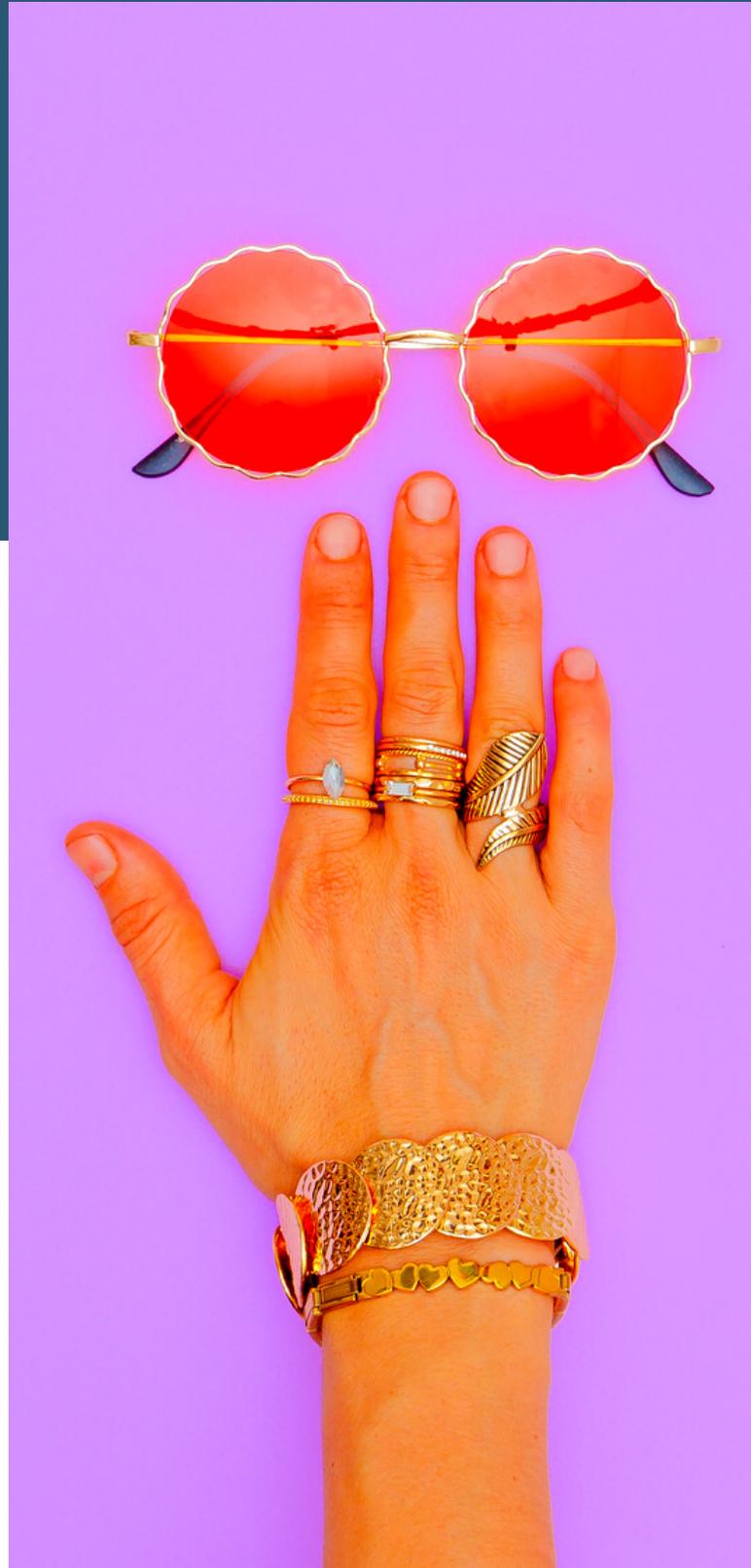
- OR -

Cardboard tubes

### *Preparation:*

Carefully cut the tops and bottoms off of tin cans large enough to fit around the child's hand. With a hammer, carefully pound out any rough edges.

If using cardboard tubes, cut them in half in order to fit on the child's wrist like a cuff bracelet. Let the child make a design of their choice with craft glue on the sides of the can or cardboard. (This may take several steps in order to let the glue dry and retain the design.) When the design is completely dry, spray with gold metallic spray paint or have the children paint with gold paint.



## Desert Silhouettes

Sunsets can be captivating in the deserts of the Middle East as shadows are cast and silhouettes appear against a colourful sky. As the air cools, people, animals, and sand dunes appear like beautiful silhouette paintings.

### *You'll need:*

Watercolour paper

Pencils

Watercolours

Acrylic or oil paints

Paint brushes

Instruct the children to start at the top of the paper or canvas. Begin painting the sky with the darkest blue (almost black,) gradually getting lighter until they reach about halfway down the paper. Then have them begin adding sunset colours. Next paint the horizon black, creating a jagged line indicating the rise and fall of the sand dunes. Have the kids paint a camel, person or other desert elements in black to create a silhouette.



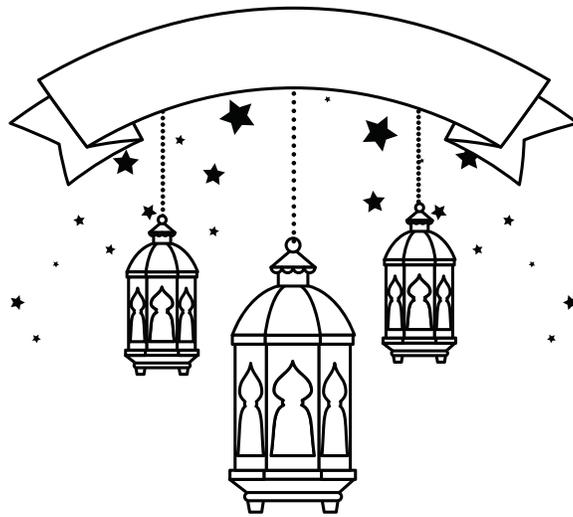


# Middle East

Culture Kit Student Pages

**SIM**

*This book belongs to*



# Find the Middle East

Locate the Middle East on the world map and trace it.  
Then colour the individual countries we studied in the Middle East.



# Seek & Find Cairo

See if you can find the answers to the questions on the next page in the busy streets of Cairo.



# Seek & Find Cairo

See if you can find the answers to these questions in the original artwork on the previous page created by TJ, who lives in the Middle East.  
(Answers in the back of the student worksheets.)

- 1 Who is selling candy-floss (cotton candy)?
- 2 How does the vegetable man deliver his goods to his customers?
- 3 How many dogs do you see?
- 4 What other creatures do you see?
- 5 How many different ways are things transported?
- 6 Who is taking a selfie?
- 7 What do you suppose the two dogs are telling each other?

## A Note from the Artist

*The kite above is a symbol of the presence of Jesus Christ over all - He died for all - and loves all! He reveals Himself through His Creation.*

*I'm the girl walking from the corner towards my house, in blue coming from the Metro supermarket. Can you see my signature is in the bottom right corner?*

# Colouring Page

Camels are especially suited to the desert climates in the Middle East and are a vital means of transport for humans and cargo.



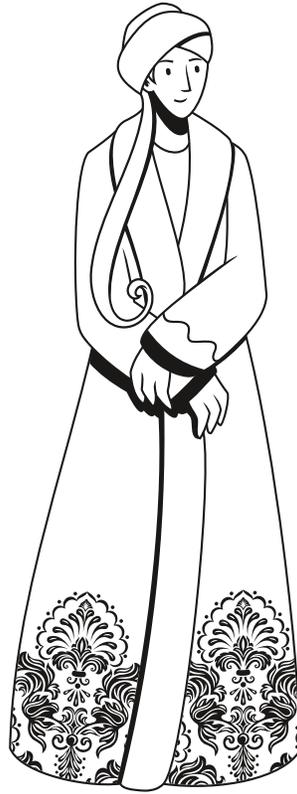
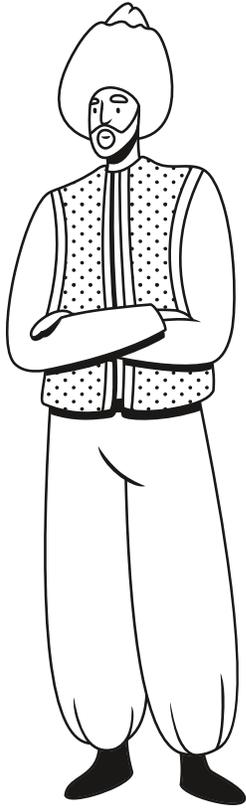
# Colouring Page

In ancient Egypt royalty wore ornate gold jewellery lined with precious gems.



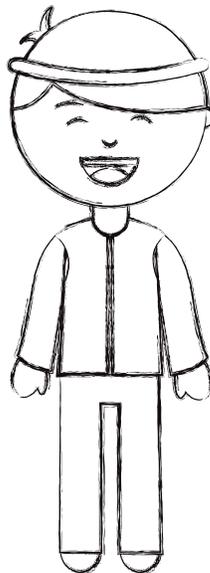
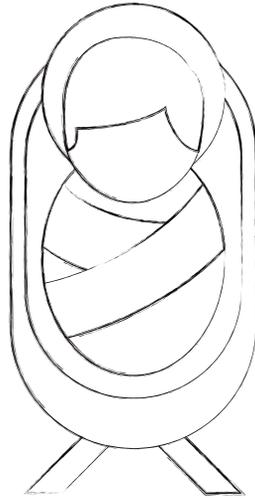
# Colour, Draw & Design

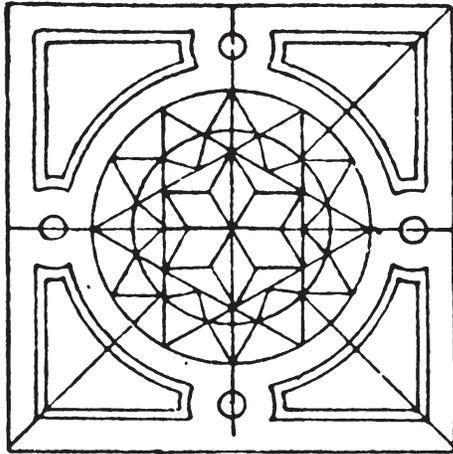
Colour this traditional Turkish clothing.  
Then draw and design an outfit of your own below.



# Jesus from Israel

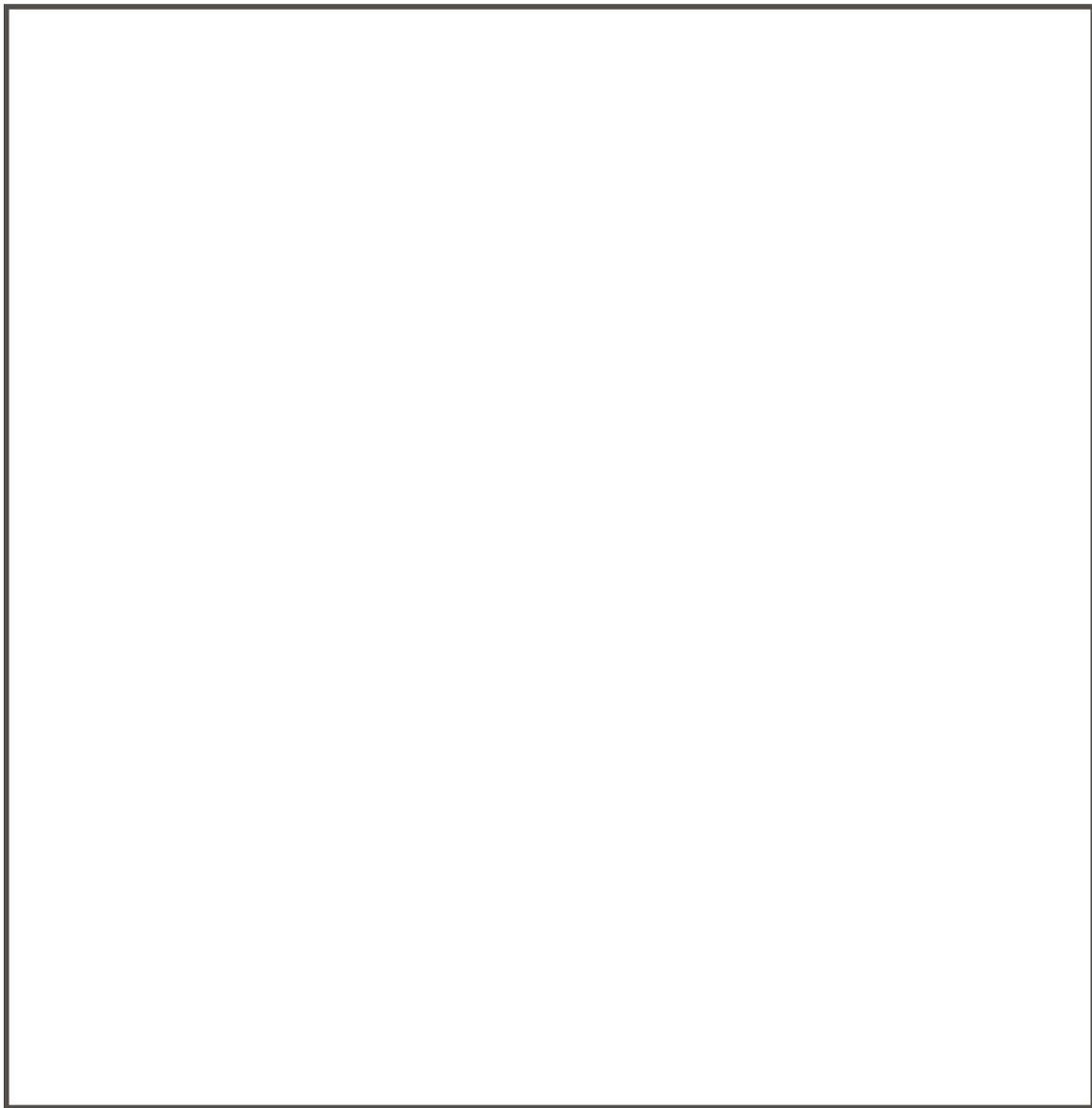
Colour and cut out these figures and re-tell the story of Jesus' birth.  
Look up the story in the gospels for a reference as needed.



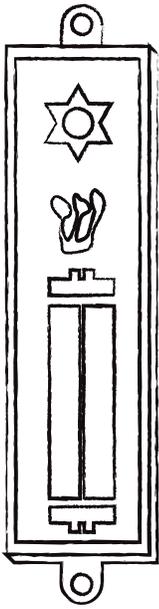


## Design Your Own Geometric Pattern

In Islamic art, geometric patterns are repeated and interlaced to create beautiful works of art. Many Islamic patterns are based on circles, squares, 8-pointed stars and polygons. Create your own geometric pattern below.





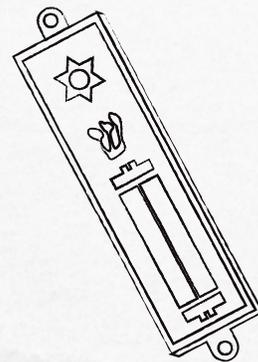


## Write the Words of God

A *Mezuzah* is a piece of parchment called a *klaf* contained in a decorative case and inscribed with the Jewish prayer *Shema Yisrael*, which contains verses from Deuteronomy. The *Mezuzah* is attached to the doorpost and is meant to fulfill the command of God to "write the words of God on the gates and doorposts of your house."

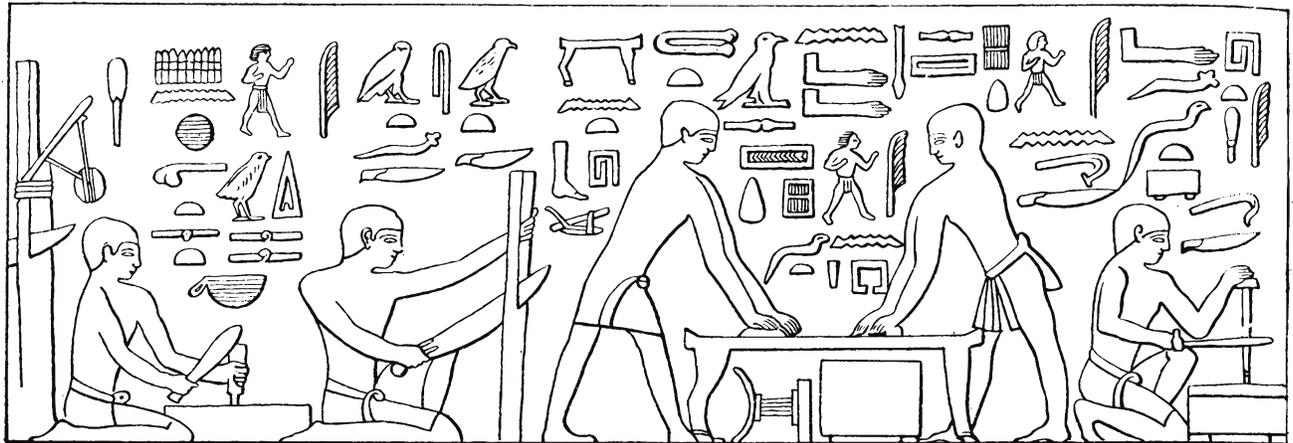
Look up Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (or just verse 5 for younger children), write it below, and find a special place to put it in your home, reminding you of God's commands.

A large rectangular area with a torn top edge, containing horizontal lines for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and cover most of the page's width.



# Create Your Own Hieroglyphs

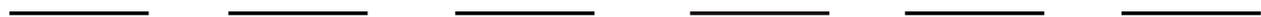
Although hieroglyphics are Egyptian, the word hieroglyphics is Greek. "Hiero" means "holy" and "glyphics" means "marks" or "writings." Most of the pictures can stand for the object they represent, but also they often stand for sounds. Create a hieroglyph for each letter in your name and write your name in your new language. Or create the whole alphabet on a separate piece of paper and make a secret message for a friend.



--	--	--	--	--	--



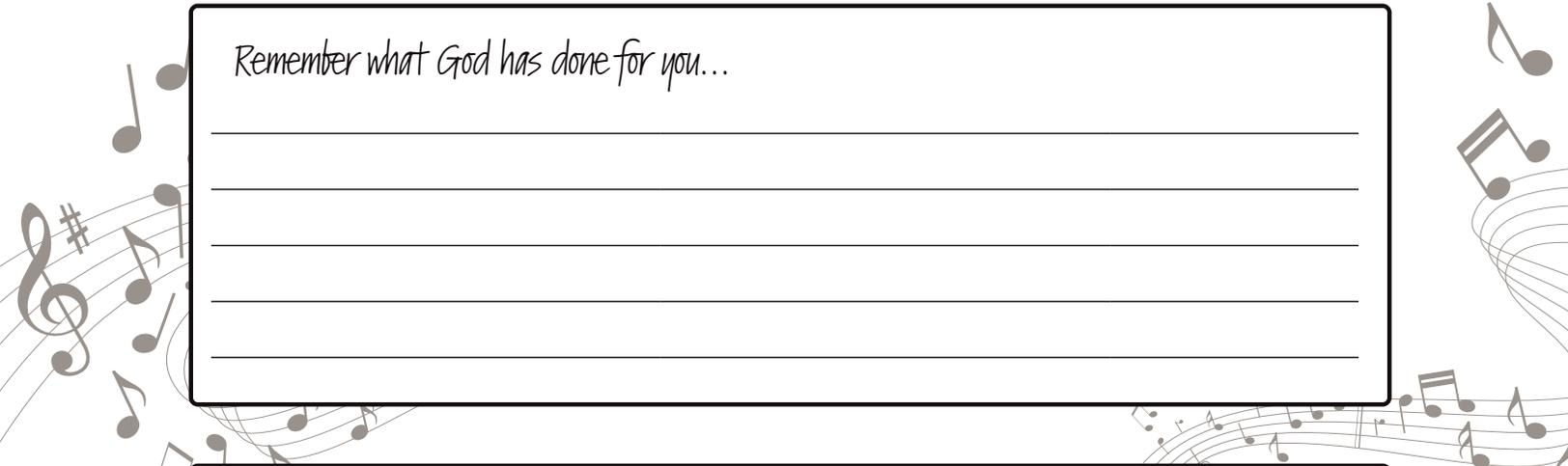
--	--	--	--	--	--



# Write a Psalm

In the Bible, the Psalms are songs to the Lord where the writer pours out his whole heart to the Lord, sometimes in joy and other times in sadness. How are you feeling today? Write a psalm about it! Read some Psalms for inspiration.

*Remember what God has done for you...*



A decorative border of musical notes and staff lines surrounds the first writing box. The notes are scattered around the box, with some appearing to flow into it from the left and right sides.

---

---

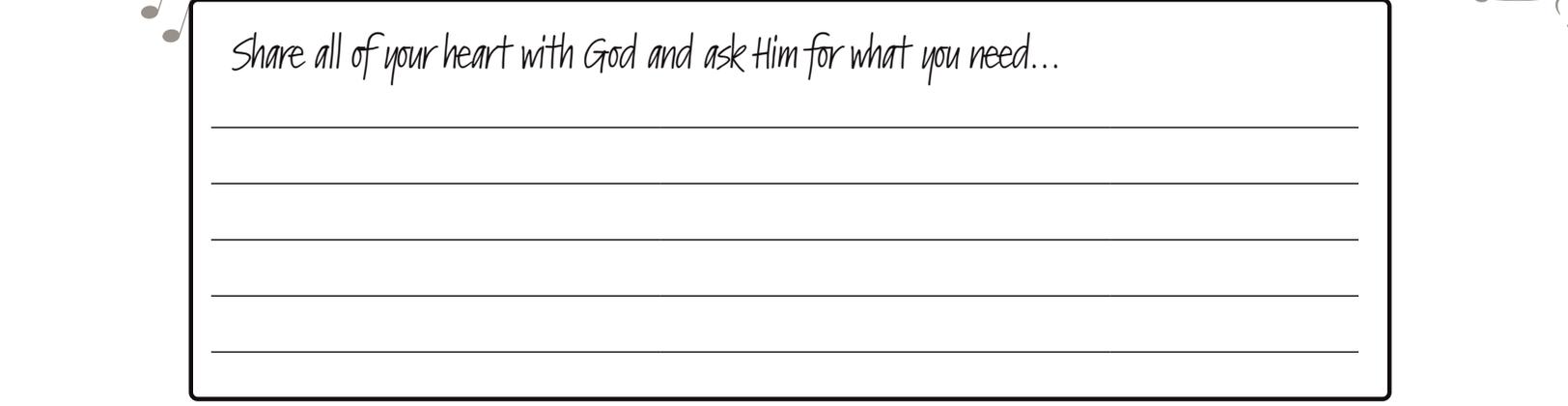
---

---

---

---

*Share all of your heart with God and ask Him for what you need...*



A decorative border of musical notes and staff lines surrounds the second writing box. The notes are scattered around the box, with some appearing to flow into it from the left and right sides.

---

---

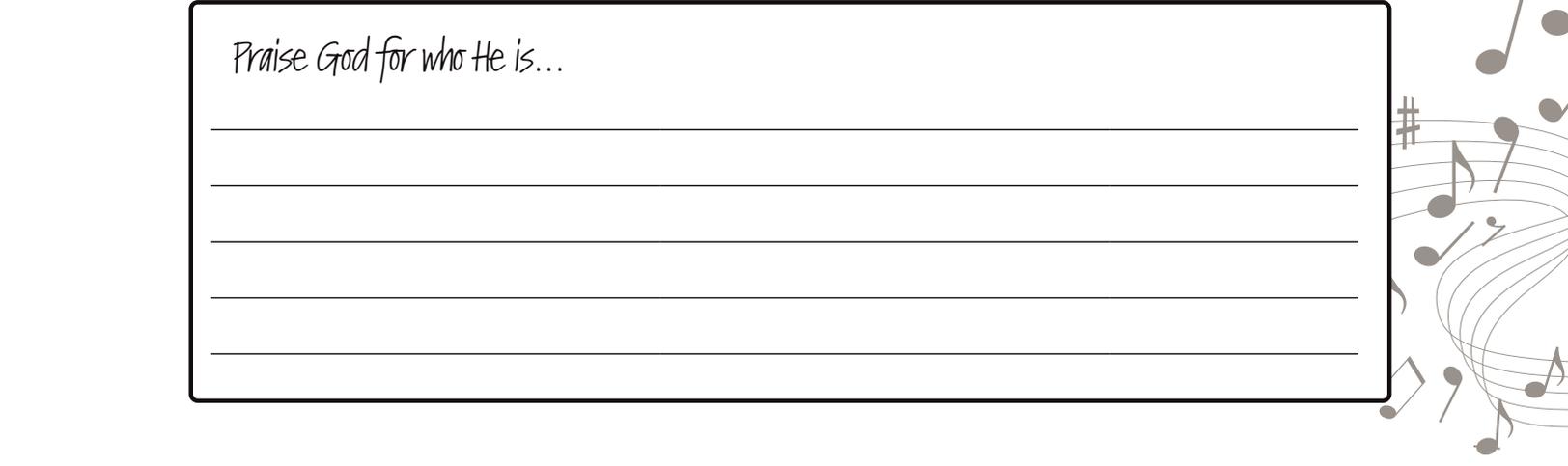
---

---

---

---

*Praise God for who He is...*



A decorative border of musical notes and staff lines surrounds the third writing box. The notes are scattered around the box, with some appearing to flow into it from the left and right sides.

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Answers: Seek & Find Cairo

Answers to the questions from the Seek & Find Artwork on pages 2 and 3 of the student worksheets.

- 1 Who is selling candy-floss (cotton candy)?  
*The man carrying the pink bags stuck onto the long stick - top right corner*
- 2 How does the vegetable man deliver his goods to his customers?  
*The ladies drop down a basket and he puts the goods into the basket and they hoist it up*
- 3 How many dogs do you see?  
*6 total: 2 on roof, 1 on roof of car to right, 2 in the garden (midan) and another sleeping on the roof of car under the tree top right of picture*
- 4 What other creatures do you see?  
*A donkey, pigeons, and a few cats*
- 5 How many different ways are things transported?  
*Donkey cart, dustbin with wheels, cart with handles and wheels, Tuk-Tuk's, cars, vans, and bicycle*
- 6 Who is taking a selfie?  
*The 2 young girls on the street corner*
- 7 What do you suppose the two dogs are telling each other?  
*Answers vary as the child imagines*