

Table Talk Afghanistan

A word ladder is a sequence of words formed by changing just one letter each time.
Can you find the missing words? Each ladder's top word is something significant to Afghanistan.
If you get stuck, hints are available at vomcanada.com/TableTalkAfghanistan.

BURQA (ages 9+)

COVER

WOMEN

GOLDEN EAGLE (9+)

GOLD

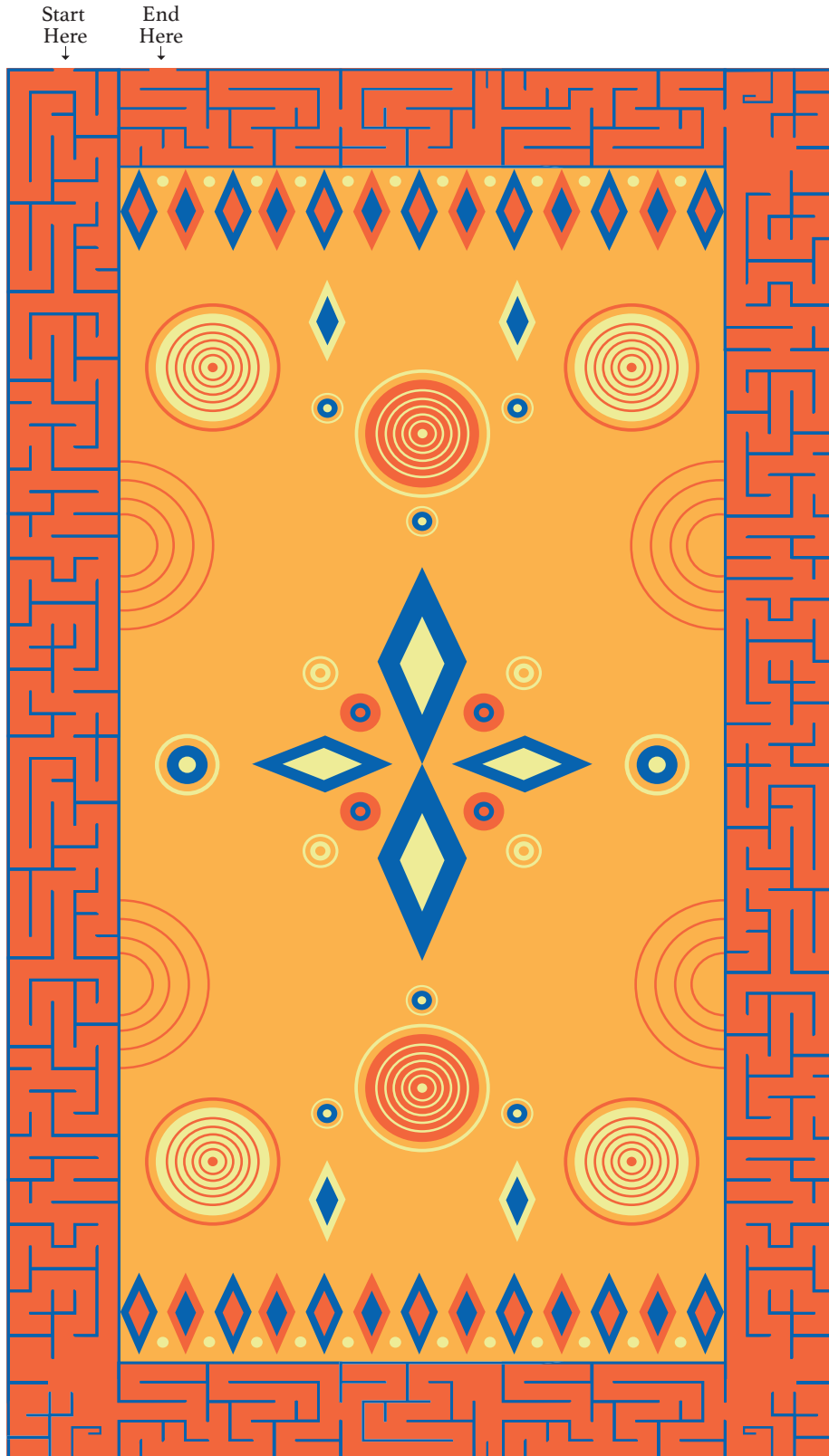
BIRD

HIDDEN FAITH (15+)

PRAYER

ABUSED

Also, try out the maze in the rug's border!



A MAIN EXPORT (12+)

GRAPE

FRUIT

A BLUE STONE (15+)

LAPIS

STONE

Along The Way

A former jihadist who had once led attacks against “infidels,” Ahad converted to Christianity from Islam and served as an elder of a growing network of house churches. Committed to boldly spreading the Gospel, he regularly met with other Muslim-background believers to encourage them in their new faith. One night, 14 jihadists kicked down his door. Ahad was killed instantly in the attack, and his wife Fatima was injured. At the scene, the assailants left a letter – a death sentence – listing the names of other Christian leaders.

Following an urgent prayer meeting in which they sought God’s guidance, the threatened leaders were able to flee with their families to safety. VOMC helped cover the expenses required for these Christians to safely relocate their families and replace the belongings they had to leave behind. The leaders sent this message:

“More than anything, we covet your prayers. All of our teams have been prepared to spend their lives for Jesus. We have lost 18 people this year and, despite this time of grieving, we are making plans to make His name known in greater ways – even among those who need to be forgiven for this act and given an opportunity to worship our Saviour.”

The artwork shown here was created by a young Afghan woman who hopes and prays that “a day will come when war and bloodshed will end, and peace and freedom will return to the people of [her] country, Afghanistan.” Her painting portrays “the idea that, behind the terror and darkness, there is light and hope.”



ADVENT 2023

His Way

“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”
Matthew 22:37-40 NIVUK

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

7 SAUDI ARABIA Pray that online Christian information will reach those whose hearts are open to the Gospel.	1 YEMEN Pray for unity among Yemeni Christians as they are assailed by outside forces.	2 MAURITANIA Pray for fruitful labour among the body of Christ in this country (Philippians 1:22).	3 LEBANON Pray that pastors and other Christian leaders will trust God during economic instability.	4 MALAYSIA Pray that Christians will boldly share the Gospel with the Malay people despite its prohibition.	5 NORTH KOREA Pray for Bible-smuggling efforts, as bordering countries ban transportation of Bibles to North Korea.	6 TURKEY Pray for the development of more Turkish church leaders.
14 INDIA Pray for the growth of Biblical disciples who will joyfully trust Christ amid persecution.	8 AFGHANISTAN Pray for Afghan Christians whose belongings are searched at checkpoints.	9 BRUNAI Pray for Bhutanese Christians in the West to return as Gospel workers to their country.	10 MEXICO Praise God that many Indigenous people are coming to faith in Christ.	11 NIGER Pray that Fulani and Tuareg Christians will witness boldly to family members who persecute them.	12 COLOMBIA Pray that students in “red zones” will be receptive to the Gospel.	13 SOMALIA Pray for the effectiveness of efforts to share the Gospel through social media.
21 KAZAKHSTAN Pray for the growth of God’s Kingdom in Kazakhstan.	15 ALGERIA Pray that young pastors receiving theological instruction will mature in their faith.	16 ETHIOPIA Pray that Christians will remain faithful despite attacks by religious groups opposed to the Gospel.	17 MALI Pray for the strength of Christians who face discrimination for following Christ.	18 TURKMENISTAN Pray for the endurance of pastors and Christians who are isolated and must meet in secret.	19 AZERBAIJAN Pray for the strength of Christ’s followers as they remain faithful to Him.	20 CAMEROON Pray that Christians from the north will be able to return home after fleeing violent conflicts.
28 BURKINA FASO Pray for the health, well-being and faith of thousands of Christians living in refugee camps.	22 VIETNAM Pray for Christians who have been denied utilities, schooling or medical care because of their faith.	23 PHILIPPINES Praise God for the bold witness of Bible school graduates.	24 BRUNEI Pray that Christians will find creative ways of reaching out to Sunni Muslims.	25 MYANMAR Pray that God will soften the hearts of Burmese people and draw them to Himself.	26 INDONESIA Pray for Christians serving in Indonesia, using Colossians 1:9-12 as a guide.	27 SUDAN Pray for an effort to get 100,000 New Testaments to people hungry for God’s Word.



Artwork Title: “Sunrise” – Oil painting on canvas

Artist: Setara Hashimi



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Digital Calendar

Table Talk Afghanistan

Weigh In



As family is considered the most important aspect of Afghan life, many households are multigenerational.



Honour plays a vital role in Afghan society. Therefore, individuals have a duty to preserve the honour of their families, tribes and even religious beliefs. Because of this, Afghans hold a very collectivist mindset, prioritizing their “group” over themselves.



Females living in Afghanistan are victims of widespread gender-based violence. They are at constant risk of beatings, harassment, forced prostitution, deprivation of alimony, as well as forced and early marriages, which have recently become even more prevalent.



To be a Christian in Afghanistan means there is the constant risk of losing one's life. Many Christians keep their faith a secret, or they will risk being subjected to beatings, tortures, kidnappings and/or even threats of death.

- ◆ What does “multigenerational” mean? Make a list of pros and cons to living in a multigenerational home.
- ◆ Look up the word “honour” in a dictionary, and note its various meanings as a verb and as a noun. Does honour affect how you interact with others? Do you think that your country and its citizens value honour like those in Afghanistan? What value does God place on honour? See Exodus 20:12, Ephesians 6:2-3, Proverbs 15:33, Matthew 15:8-9 and Revelation 5:13.
- ◆ Between January and June 2022, there were 1,518 cases of violence against women, not accounting for those that went unreported. What does the Bible say about the value of life, more specifically, the lives of girls and women? How did Jesus treat women in the New Testament despite societal norms?
- ◆ Have you ever suffered for your faith in Jesus? What does “carrying your cross” mean to you?

Way Out

VOMC is helping to provide Dari Scriptures in print and digital formats to Afghans, while also training believers within the country for Bible translation work. Additionally, VOMC is supporting Pamir Ministries' radio program, which is regularly broadcasting the Good News of Jesus, addressing relevant social issues, and teaching believers and spiritual seekers throughout Afghanistan about the Christian faith.

One Way

The third pillar of Islam is *zakat*, which translates to “purification.” This is the practice of giving a portion (2.5 percent minimum) of one's money and other means of wealth to the poor in society. Muslims view this as a compulsory component of their faith. It is part of their practice of worship in which the followers of Islam express thanks to Allah for his blessings and recognize that all worldly possessions are from him.

While numerous Scriptures speak of giving financially in the form of tithes and offerings, Christianity does not demand the giving of a certain amount of money to the poor. The Apostle John posed this question: If we see a fellow brother in need, but don't do anything, how can we truly have the love of God in us (1 John 3:17)? Though not a requirement, Christians, like Muslims, consider giving regularly an important practice that should be done out of love (1 John 3:18), with thanksgiving (2 Corinthians 9:7), and as a way to cultivate trust in God the Father as our ultimate provider (Psalm 23; Matthew 6:33-34).

Recommended Reads

- *Tales of Persia: Missionary Stories from Islamic Iran* by William McElwee Miller.
- *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity* by Nabeel Qureshi.
- *Women Who Risk: Secret Agents of Jesus in the Muslim World* by Tom and Joann Doyle.
- *Farewell, Four Waters: One Aid Worker's Sudden Escape from Afghanistan* by Kate McCord.

Sources

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