

Table Talk UZBEKISTAN

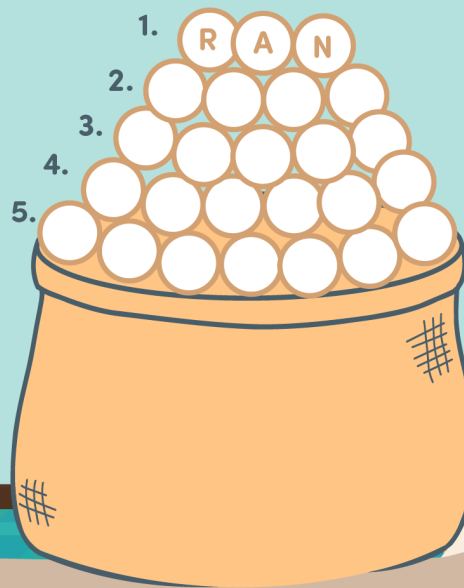
MARKETPLACE MYSTERY!

How to play:

To complete the missing words in each fruit basket, use all the letters of the previous word, plus a new letter. Use the corresponding clue to solve the puzzle. An answer key and printable resources are available at:

vomcanada.com/TableTalkUzbekistan

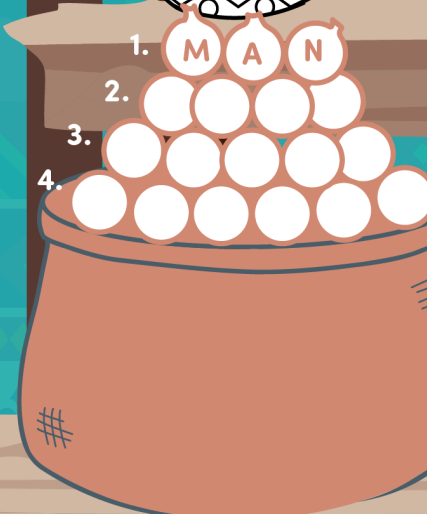
Colour Me!



Fruit Basket 1:

ORANGES
1,000 CŶMs EACH

1. Moved fast.
2. To obtain payment for labour or services.
3. An intense emotional state.
4. Both a fruit and a colour.
5. A common culinary herb.



Fruit Basket 2:

POMEGRANATES
1,000 CŶMs EACH

1. The opposite of a woman.
2. A long, low sound.
3. A traveller with no permanent home.
4. A nutlike seed.



MARKETPLACE MYSTERY ANSWER KEY

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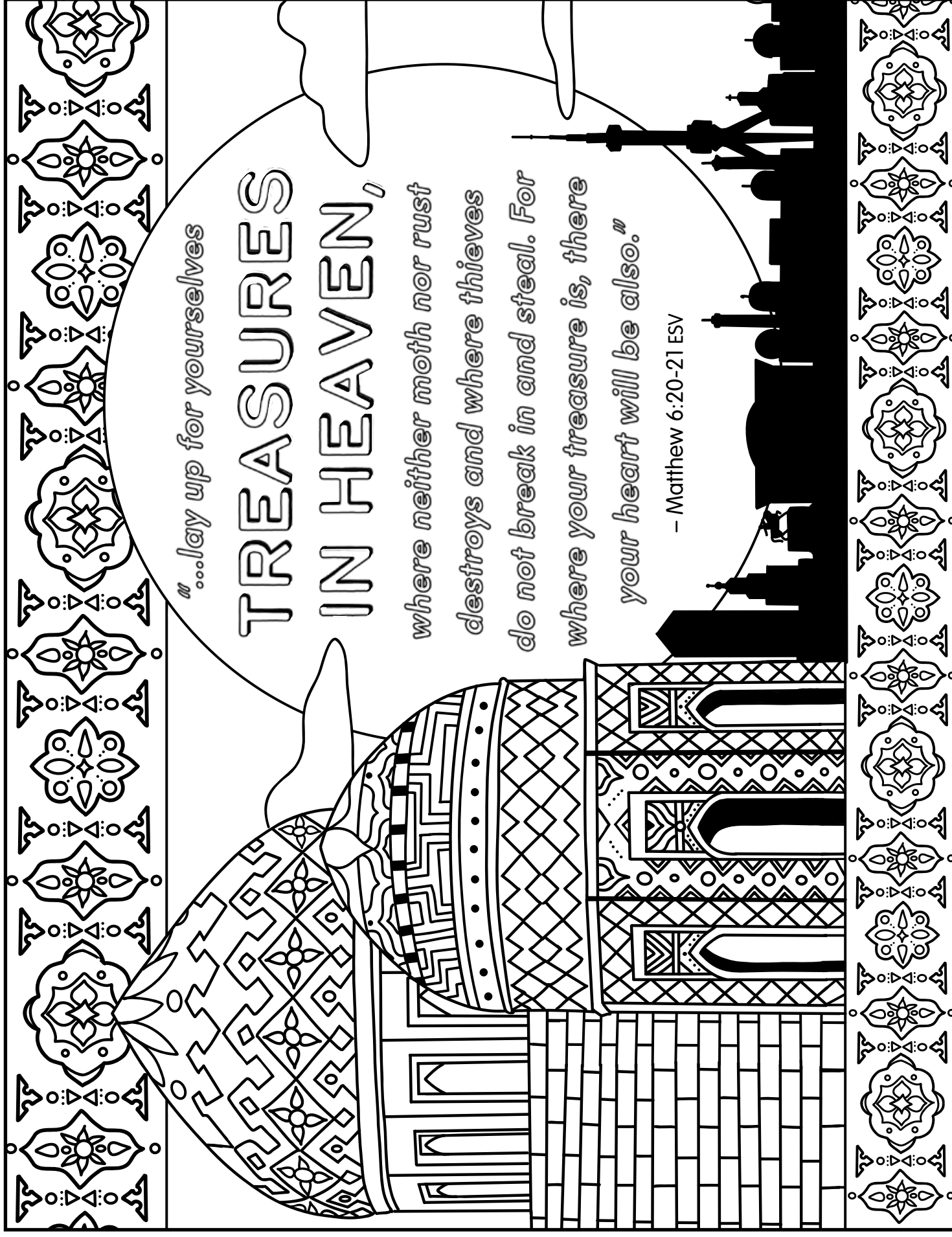
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"...lay up for yourselves

TREASURES IN HEAVEN,

*where neither moth nor rust
destroys and where thieves
do not break in and steal. For
where your treasure is, there
your heart will be also."*

— Matthew 6:20-21 ESV



His Way "...lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust destroys and where
thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:20-21 ESV

FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 SYRIA Pray that Syrians residing within the country, and those who've sought refuge in other countries, will be receptive to the Gospel.	2 ALGERIA Praise God for the growth of the church in this nation! Pray that the Christian community will continue to expand despite opposition.	3 TURKMENISTAN Pray for Silas, a Turkmen Christian who is faithfully sharing the Gospel through broadcast media.
4 UZBEKISTAN People in this country view Biblical Christianity as extremism. Pray that the conduct of Christians will change this perception.	5 ETHIOPIA Pray for believers like Makda, whose husband and family rejected her for embracing Christianity.	6 CAMEROON Pray that effective evangelistic outreaches will touch the hearts of members from the Boko Haram terrorist group.	7 JORDAN Pray that Christian converts from Islam will be able to worship openly without encountering persecution from their family members.	8 TANZANIA Pray that Bibles will reach people living in the remote Muslim-dominated areas of this African nation.	9 COMOROS Pray that Christians who are imprisoned for sharing the Gospel will be emboldened in their witness.	10 VIETNAM Pray for the healing of Anh, a Vietnamese teenager who was attacked with a machete because of her Christian witness.
11 SRI LANKA Pray that local authorities will grant favour to Christians seeking permission to construct church buildings.	12 SAUDI ARABIA Pray for those who face imprisonment or the threat of death for following Jesus Christ.	13 MALAYSIA Pray for Susanna, whose husband Raymond was mysteriously abducted on this day in 2017 and remains missing.	14 MALI Pray for Jacques, a Christian ministry worker who helps distribute Bibles to pastors in Mali, where God's Word is in great demand.	15 KYRGYZSTAN Pray that the church will provide loving support to those who have experienced rejection because of their faith in Christ.	16 SUDAN Pray for a pastor who was arrested for allegedly "disturbing the peace" after Muslim militants attacked his church.	17 BHUTAN Pray for a spiritual breakthrough to take place in this predominantly Buddhist nation.
18 TAJIKISTAN Pray that as corruption and the opium trade compound the country's difficulties, Tajiks will seek freedom and stability in Christ.	19 COLOMBIA Pray that Christian workers ministering in the country's "red zones" will be refreshed and strengthened at the pastors' conferences.	20 NIGER Pray that Christians who are unable to read will have access to audio Bibles in their native languages.	21 INDONESIA While it is illegal to evangelize in this nation, pray that Christians will courageously share the hope of the Gospel.	22 ERITREA Pray for Meron, Mussie, Kiflu, Kidane, Haile and the hundreds of other believers who remain imprisoned for their faith in Christ.	23 YEMEN Pray that Christians will find ways to help their neighbours who are suffering from the nation's food crisis.	24 CUBA Praise God that the members of Pastor David's church will continue to gather for worship despite their building's destruction.
25 PAKISTAN Pray for the protection and encouragement of Christian converts from Islam, who are often rejected by their families.	26 UGANDA Praise God that Biblically based churches have responded to the rise of radical Islam by reaching out with the Gospel message.	27 SOUTHERN MEXICO Pray that the Chiapas Outreach Bases will continue to bear good eternal fruit in the lives of children.	28 NORTH KOREA Pray for the estimated 30,000 Christians who are serving sentences in prisons and labour camps because of their faith.	29 INDIA Pray for Christian leaders in India, including those whose ministries have been shut down due to new governmental regulations.		



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Digital Calendar

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WEIGH IN

In the 1960s, the Aral Sea was the world's fourth largest lake. However, because of excessive irrigation, it soon began losing a significant volume of water. Today, the sea is extremely salty and a fraction of its former size.



People in Uzbekistan are known for their hospitality. Guests sit on floor cushions surrounding low-lying tables that contain a variety of food on platters. The small individual plates used by guests are not meant to be loaded, but to function like a party napkin.



The government of Uzbekistan, in an attempt to appear diplomatic, permits religion but requires individual groups to register. Unregistered churches are deemed illegal and, if discovered, attending believers risk severe fines and imprisonment. However, applying for registration exposes Christian groups to the likelihood of being denied and further persecuted.



In Uzbekistan, Christian converts from a Muslim background are commonly ostracized by family members. Ostracism is the intentional act of excluding someone from a social group or activity.



In the past, the area surrounding the Aral Sea hosted a vibrant economy, providing numerous Uzbeks with income. Since the lake all but disappeared, many people have sought jobs elsewhere. What effects would a receding lake have on the life of an Uzbek residing in the region?

Compare the hospitality demonstrated in Uzbekistan versus that which is typically practised in Canada. During your discussion, define and address the implications of individualism and collectivism. How comfortable would you feel eating a meal in either of these ways?

The members of most churches in Uzbekistan meet secretly under the guise of attending a social gathering in order to conceal their Christian activities from the authorities. Yet, despite governmental interference, the Uzbek church continues to grow. Why do you think Christianity is expanding in the midst of such hostility?

Being ostracized is extremely painful for many believers in Uzbekistan. Imagine having to face rejection from your family for following Jesus. Even if you chose to abandon your faith to appease your family, how would this influence your familial relationships in the future, knowing the conditions of their love? Compare this with the value of God's unconditional love.

ONE WAY

The Quran is the holy book of Islam. It affirms the first five books of the Bible, the Psalms, and the four Gospels as the inspired Word of God. However, Muslims believe that the modern copies of these books were corrupted and, therefore, no longer contain their original messages. What is unrealized by Muslims is that strong archeological evidence proves the Bible has not changed. Of all the ancient documents found, 99.5 percent of them confirm the accuracy of the Bible. Any minor differences are obvious slips of the pen, such as slight errors in spelling or grammar.

Inspired by God, the Bible was written by more than 40 different authors over a span of 1,500 years; those encompassing three continents and three different languages. Remarkably, considering these variables, the authors all support, agree and testify to the same unifying theme of God's redemption plan for humanity. While the Bible does warn people of God's coming judgement, it also offers hope and salvation in Jesus Christ to all who believe. Those who trust in Jesus are free from the fear of judgement and can enjoy inner peace (Romans 8:1).

WAY OUT

In the upcoming month, we challenge you to host a dinner party. At the gathering, you can share a cultural dish (*recipe to be featured in VOMC's March issue!*), explore the similarities between Islam and Christianity, and engage in a time of thoughtful discussion. The goal of this evening is to give you a launching point to share the Gospel with your friends and/or neighbours.

As the first step for this month, we encourage you to create a guest list and send out the invitations. To download a printable invitation, visit: vomcanada.com/TableTalkUzbekistan. In next month's issue of VOMC's magazine, there will be further instructions on how you can make this evening a success.

Recommended Reads:

- *Uzbekistan – Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture* by Alex Ulko and Culture Smart!
- *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus* by Nabeel Qureshi
- *More Than a Carpenter* by Josh and Sean McDowell

Sources:

- <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/uzbekistan/>
- <https://uz.usembassy.gov/2022-report-on-international-religious-freedom-uzbekistan/>
- <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/persecution/countries/uzbekistan/>

YOU'RE
INVITED!

WHEN:

TIME:

WHERE:

RSVP BY:

ABOUT

THE

EVENT:



CAN'T
WAIT TO
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