



# WORLD FOR KIDS

## FOCUS: Middle East (Israel)

### → ISRAEL/PALESTINE



The land of Israel is especially rich with history. Three of the major religious groups in the world were started here: Jews, Christians and

Muslims. Even though the lands of the Middle East are 93% Muslim, the country of Israel, is ruled by the Jewish people.

The land of Israel is tiny, but beautiful. With just a small amount of travel, a visitor can walk in places where Abraham walked, where King David ruled, and where Jesus lived, died, and rose again.

For Muslim people, there are also many important buildings and historical ruins. Although there are many differences, these three major world religions all believe in one God as the Creator and ruler of the earth. All are very serious about their beliefs.

### → IN THE NEWS

Find a major newspaper (Sunday paper, if possible). Take out the front section. Page through it to see how many times you find Israel or Palestine. Look for other countries in the Middle East, too. Can you find articles on each of these topics?

War	_____
Oil	_____
Poverty	_____
Terrorism	_____
Refugees	_____



The Flag of Israel

### → ISLAM

Most people in the Middle East belong to the religion called Islam. It is the second largest religion in the world, after Christianity.

The people who practice Islam are called Muslims. The Koran, their holy book, teaches them to do five important things, called "The Pillars of Islam":

- 1) To PROFESS there is no God but Allah
- 2) To PRAY five times a day (usually facing east toward Mecca)
- 3) To GIVE money to people in need
- 4) To FAST all day, every day during the month of Ramadan (but they feast all night)
- 5) To make a PILGRIMAGE to Mecca in Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Mohammed, the founder of Islam.



**TRY THIS AT HOME:** On one day this coming week, try praying five times (morning, noon, midafternoon, sunset, and nightfall). Pray for Muslims to know Jesus.

**LOVE: Unlocking the hearts of people so they can know Jesus!**

## → GET THE FACTS

- ◆93% of the Middle East is Muslim
- ◆1% is Jewish
- ◆5% is Christian
- ◆1% belong to other religions



## → WHAT CAN KIDS DO?

### V - VALUE THEM (like Jesus does)

When we love people, like Jesus does, it opens doors for people to learn about him. We can value people, even before they learn the truth about Jesus and receive him as their Savior. We love them because God does.

Look up this Bible verse to fill in the blanks:

Your \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ is not willing that \_\_\_\_\_ of these \_\_\_\_\_ ones should be \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 18:14 (NIV)**

## → PRAYING FOR PEOPLE OF THE MIDDLE EAST

### PRAY FOR PEACE:

The Middle East and Israel are often in the news. Why? Because so many of the countries are in constant conflict with each other. Many different groups want changes or they want land that others do not want to give them. Many people die because of the fighting. Pray that people will learn to live in peace. Pray especially that they learn about the peace they can have with God through Jesus Christ.

### PRAY FOR HEALING OF HATRED

Since Bible times, many people of the Middle East have been at war with each other for one reason or another. Many are Muslims. Some have been Christians. Others are Jews. Religious differences have been at the center of many wars. Pray that God will bring his love and forgiveness. Pray they all come to know Jesus and "VALUE OTHERS" the way that Jesus does.

