

# Introduction

## Karis

Our work among the Karis people started about 20 years ago when several families moved from Michigan to Central Asia to share the good news about J'sus. Most of the Karis people are Muslims which means that they don't know J'sus as their Sav'r. They believe that J'sus was just a prophet like Abraham or Moses. We now have a team of people that have come to live and work among the Karis people in order to share with them that J'sus is not just another prophet but Father's Son, the Savior of the world.

We focus on two areas of ministry. First, we work with a network of house meetings. We share the g'pel and disciple the new b'lvers that

accept Brother. We are also seeking to train local b'lvers to be leaders in these house meetings. Second, we have an office that is set up to help people in need. We do projects in orphanages, offer classes in English and computers to help people get better jobs, and work in community development.

Our team of workers is growing, and we are working together to build up the house meeting movement. We are excited about what Father is doing,

and we look forward to seeing the house meeting movement grow as more and more people learn about the love of J'sus."

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Some of oldest dwellings of man are found here along with petroglyphs and musical stones—the gaval dashy



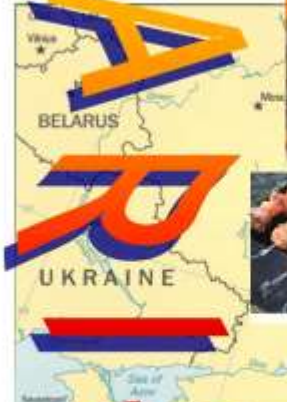
Typical head coverings for men are called a papaq. Women cover their heads with scarves known as a hijab. Sometimes they wear a Burqa which covers everything but the eyes.

Every region produces its own special type of rug. We call them Persian rugs because this area used to be part of the Persian empire.



Foods—Soup is the most popular type of food. 1 Pickles—served as an appetizer; 2 Shashlyk-kebab; 3 Qutab-bread with fillings; 4 Bozbash-meatball soup; 5 Plov-rice dish; 6 Piti-lamb stew; 7 Paklava-pastry; 8 Govurma-potatoes; 9 Dovga-sour milk soup; 10 Halva-pastry; 11 Churek-bread; 12 Pomegranate.

The Caucasus and Central Asia



Festivals  
Seven beauties—involves women competing in crocheting stockings.

Novruz-spring festival involves boys jumping over bonfires, unique dances, preparing trays of wheat sprouts, and egg painting.



Tea is always served to guests before a meal and includes preserves made from many fruits like quince, fig, watermelon peel, apricots, sweet cherry, walnut and others.

Largest number of mud volcanoes are found in this region.

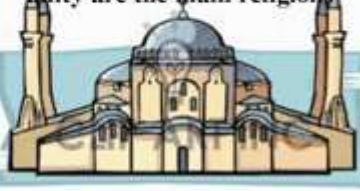


Sturgeon—large freshwater fish can be up to 4 meters long. Main source of the best caviar in the world. Caviar is made from the eggs of the sturgeon. It can cost as much as \$500 an ounce.



Home to some unique music styles  
Tahrir-Throat singing, a type of yodeling  
Mugham-poetry mixed with instrumental interludes  
Meykhana—traditional folk rap

Islam and Orthodox Christianity are the main religions.





# Children's Story

## Samira

As a young child Samira lived in a village just outside of the capital city. Her mother worked odd-jobs cleaning and her father worked repairing shoes. Her family struggled to have enough money. It was harder for her father to find work because he was deaf. So when Samira's great-aunt became sick and needed someone to care for her, the family left their home in the village and moved into the small two-room apartment where her great aunt lived in the capital city so that Samira's mother could care for her.

It just so happened that in the building where Samira's aunt lived, there was a woman who was a Cr'tian, living on the floor above them. This woman's niece and nephew lived with her also. The niece was the same age as Samira so they quickly became friends. Samira began to spend a lot of time at their home and soon this neighbor began sharing with her about Jesus. She gave Samira a B'le and Samira took it home and began reading it. This neighbor also hosted a house ch'ch in her home each S'day so Samira began attending that also and began hearing more about who G'd is. Eventually Samira also decided that she wanted to give her life to J'sus. Soon after this she was b'tized.

When Samira was 15 years old her parents decided it was time to leave the capital city and move back to their home in the village. Today, at 19, Samira still lives in this village. She doesn't know any other Cr'tians who live there. She says that when her parents first decided to move in with her great-aunt she did not want to leave her home and move to the city, but now she sees that G'd had a plan. Those years in the capital city showed her that G'd loves her so much that he would bring her family to live in this building where there was another C'tian, and through this woman Samira would come to know J'sus!

# Memory Activity

Psalms 77:13 (NIV)

Your ways, O God, are holy. What god is so great as our God?

Read the verse several times with the students. Discuss how God showed his greatness in the children's story and in the Bible lesson. Discuss how God shows his greatness to us every day. Have the children give personal examples, if possible.

Divide the students into teams of two or three. Have them write the Bible verse on a large sheet of paper – instructing them to write the verse in large letters so as to cover the whole paper. Then, have them cut the paper in pieces to resemble a puzzle. (You might suggest that they cut it into a certain amount of pieces, for example 10 or 12 pieces, so that every team's puzzle has the same number.) Then, have the teams exchange puzzles and see who can put the puzzle together first.

# Bible Lesson

Bible Lesson – Genesis 37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 45

Joseph's brothers mistreated him. They threw him into a deep well and later sold him to a group of Midian traders. When these traders reached Egypt, they sold Joseph to Potiphar, one of the king's officers.

God was with Joseph. He worked for Potiphar and everything was going well – until Potiphar's wife lied about Joseph. He was thrown into jail because of that lie! But, while in jail, the jail keeper saw that Joseph feared God and he was an honest young man. He put Joseph in charge of everything that was done in the prison.

While in prison, God gave Joseph wisdom to interpret the dreams of two prisoners. When the king heard about this, he asked Joseph to interpret some disturbing dreams that he had dreamed. God helped Joseph to know exactly what the dreams meant – there would be seven years of great plenty in the land of Egypt followed by seven years of famine (Gen. 41:29, 30).

The king was so impressed with Joseph that he put him in charge of the whole country. Joseph made sure that during the seven good years enough food was stored in preparation for the seven hungry years that were to follow. During those years, people came from all over the world to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was very severe (Gen. 41:57).

Even Joseph's brothers came to buy food in Egypt. They had several conversations with Joseph and even ate with him – but they did not recognize him. Finally, Joseph told them who he was. How do you think his brothers felt? (happy, afraid, nervous, embarrassed, etc.) Why do you think they might have had those feelings?

Joseph told them that they shouldn't feel bad because of what they had done to him so many years earlier. He said, "Do not be upset or blame yourselves because you sold me here. It was really God who sent me ahead of you to save people's lives" (Gen 45:5 TEV).

God knew from the start all of the things that Joseph would go through. He knew that he would be thrown into a deep, dark well. He knew that he would spend several years in jail. But, He also knew that Joseph would save thousands of lives because of his wisdom in providing for the people of Egypt and for others all around the world. God was with Joseph in the well – He was with Joseph in jail – and He was with Joseph as he led the great nation of Egypt.

Joseph trusted in God in the good and bad times and God was with him always.

### **Benovsha** (translates "violet")

The game is played much like Red Rover. Children form two teams. Each team forms a line, linking arms or hands. Then one team shouts the words below to the other. Whoever the other team decides to send runs across to the other line and tries to break through. If they do, they take someone from the opposite team, back to their own team. If not, they become part of that team. The team ending up with all the players wins, of course!

Words: (teach the children the line in the Karis language)  
Benovsha, ay benovsha! Sizden bize kim geler? (translates: "Violet, oh violet! Who will come over to us from you?")

### **Shekerbura (Pastry)**

Children form a circle, holding hands. One person is chosen to squat/kneel in the middle with his/her eyes closed. The circle begins walking around, while saying in unison:



Jerah's\* mother made shekerbura.

It was THIS tall (*children stretch their arms up high*)

It was as low as the ground. (*Children squat down and bring their arms down to the floor*)

Stand up on your feet and look around! (*Person in the middle stands up & looks around. Circle stops moving.*)

Whoever you choose, take their hand and pull them in!

(*Middle person takes someone's hand, and pulls him/her into the middle to take their place*)

*Keep going until there is one more child in the middle than in the circle. Last person pulled in is the one to start the next round of the game.*

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# Time for Prayer

Please pray for Fatima and her family, and for many believers among the Karis people who are persecuted for their faith.

Please pray that we would see more families come to Christ among the Karis people.

Please pray that many people would see that Jesus is the only way to the Father.

Please pray that more Christian books and CD's would be available in the language of the Karis people.

Please pray for our team here as we seek to share the gospel with the Karis people.

Please pray that the church among the Karis people would grow.

Please pray that God would raise up leaders among the Karis people.



# Activity

## Activity

In the fact page you learned that there is a place that has many petroglyphs. (A petroglyph is a message using symbols to communicate a message. It is usually carved into rock.) Have each child create their own petroglyph for the memory verse. Use paper, pencils, crayons or other similar materials for this activity.

Below are some samples from the fact page. Each petroglyph should represent a word in the verse. Below are some examples of different types of petroglyphs you can show the children

