

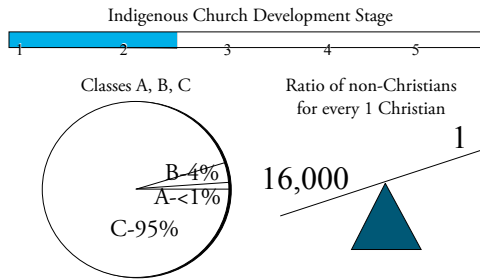
# Palestinian Muslims



## Quick Facts

**Population:** 8,000,000  
 Palestine: 3,500,000  
 Jordan: 2,500,000  
 Israel: 1,000,000  
 Syria: 400,000

**Religion:** Islam  
**Believers:** 0.006% (MBB)  
**Scriptures:** Portions  
**Ministry Tools:** GT  
**C Status:** 2  
**M Status:** 2  
**MS Subgroups:** 10+



Class A- Are members of a Culturally Relevant Church  
 Class B- Have close access to a CRC, but have not yet joined  
 Class C- Have no reasonable or close access to a CRC

Bank and Gaza has been extremely difficult over the last decade and most ministries have transferred their base of operations to Jordan. Here there has been good response in the refugee camps with several underground fellowships being established.

## How to Pray:

Intercede for the seven church planting teams working among the Palestinian Muslims throughout the world. Pray for God's blessing on their efforts, and for expansion of their work to include those Muslim Palestinians in Syria, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia.

**Identity:** The Palestinian Muslims descend from the ancient Caananite peoples of Biblical times. After the Islamic conquest of the region their language and culture became Arabized, forming a unique Arabic dialect with Aramaic loanwords, and a unique culture with pre-Arab Levantine elements.

**Lifestyle:** The West Bank of Israel has essentially become a welfare state dependant on aid agencies since access to the job market in Israel was cut off in the 1990s. Even before the violent uprisings known as the *Intifada*, only 12% of the economic activity of the state was ever generated internally. The rest came from employment in Israel as low-wage laborers, overseas employment, and international aid. In Jordan, half of the Palestinian population continues to live in permanent refugee camps, surviving at a subsistence level.

**Customs:** Before the advent of TV and radio, storytelling was the main

source of evening entertainment. Traditionally, every town had a guest house with an entertainer who would play the *rababah* (one stringed violin-like instrument) and recite a common folktale. Today, these stories are mostly told by grandparents to their grandchildren.

**Religion:** The Palestinian Muslims regard themselves as the proud protectors of Islam's third most holy-site, the Haram al-Sharif, or the Temple Mount. It is here that Muhammad is said to have ascended into heaven to receive special revelation for the Muslim community. The civil war with Israel has given rise to many fundamentalist Muslim groups which seek to reclaim the holy city of Jerusalem from the Jews and implement the system of *dhimmi*. Dhimmi is the Islamic rule of law governing peoples conquered in *jihad*, and is essentially a type of apartheid.

**Christian Outreach:** Missionary work among Palestinians in the West

Palestinian converts to Christianity have been harshly treated, and most seek to emigrate or move away from their family. Pray for one unique ministry in Jordan seeking to help new believers stay integrated with their family and culture.

Pray for the creative use of media to reach Palestinians in the West Bank and Jordan, especially radio. Ask God to raise up a powerful broadcast in the Levantine Arabic dialect.

Pray for the 30 Evangelical churches in the West Bank that the light of Christ would radiate through them.

**Every year 75,000 Palestinian Muslims die without Christ.**