

LEARN, ASK & PRAY

Questions and things I want to learn about Lebanon this week:

PRAY FOR LABOURERS

"Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

MATTHEW 9:37-38 | KJV

My prayer for Lebanon:

Sources: Operation World, Lebanon profile and prayer calendar; World Factbook Lebanon profile; U.S. Department of State, International Religious Freedom report. Statistics are estimates and may vary by source.

THE COUNTRY OF THE WEEK



LEBANON

A small biblical land at the crossroads of the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

**Look out onto the harvest. Identify the needs.
Pray for labourers.**

Capital: Beirut | Official language: Arabic

LEBANON: HISTORY & BACKGROUND

Lebanon lies on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, bordered by Syria to the north and east and Israel to the south. Though only about one-third the size of Maryland, it has long connected the worlds of Europe, Asia, and Africa.

A land with ancient roots

The cities of Byblos, Sidon, and Tyre were important centers of the ancient Phoenician world. Phoenician sailors and merchants carried goods, ideas, and an early alphabet throughout the Mediterranean. Lebanon also appears often in Scripture through its cedars, mountains, and coastal cities.

From empires to independence

The region came under the rule of many powers, including the Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Crusaders, and Ottomans. After World War I, Lebanon was administered by France. It became independent in 1943.

Civil war and continuing strain

Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war cost an estimated 120,000 lives and left deep divisions. The country rebuilt, but political instability, sectarian rivalry, foreign influence, and armed conflict continued. Since 2019, a severe financial crisis has damaged banks, jobs, public services, and the value of the Lebanese pound. Lebanon has also received large numbers of refugees from Syria and Palestine.

Population	About 5.4-5.8 million; estimates vary
Capital	Beirut
People	Lebanese Arabs, Armenians, and refugee communities
Languages	Arabic; French and English are widely used

CHRISTIANITY IN LEBANON

Lebanon has one of the largest publicly identified Christian populations in the Middle East. Operation World estimates 32% Christian but only about 0.5% evangelical. Here, Christian describes religious affiliation, not necessarily personal faith or evangelical belief.

An old and diverse Christian presence

- The largest Christian body is the Maronite Church, an Eastern Catholic church with ancient roots.
- Other historic communities include Greek Orthodox, Melkite Greek Catholic, Armenian Apostolic, Syriac Orthodox, Armenian Catholic, and smaller churches.
- Protestant work grew through nineteenth- and twentieth-century missions. Evangelical Protestants are one of 18 officially recognized religious groups.

Freedom and opportunity

Lebanon's constitution protects freedom of conscience and religious rites. Churches, schools, publishing, theological education, and relief work make the nation an important center of Christian influence in the Arab world. Yet conversion and evangelism can still bring strong social pressure.

Operation World highlights

- War, displacement, corruption, unemployment, and economic collapse have deeply traumatized the nation.
- Refugees are often blamed for national problems, yet growing numbers are encountering Jesus.
- Many who identify as Christian still need the new birth, faithful Bible teaching, and Christ-centered renewal.

Pray for Lebanon

- For biblical churches to proclaim Christ clearly, courageously, and compassionately.
- For pastors, church planters, and Christian workers to remain faithful amid hardship.
- For Muslims, Druze, nominal Christians, and refugees to hear and believe the gospel.
- For peace, honest leadership, healing from trauma, and mercy for suffering families.