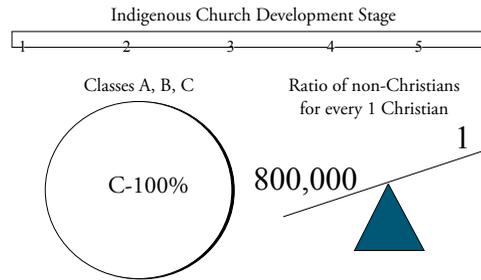


# Lur



## Quick Facts

**Pop. in Iran:** 4,000,000  
**Urban Populations:**  
 Borujerd: 67,000  
 Khorramabad: 45,000  
 Dezful: 44,000  
 Qazvin: 36,000  
**Religion:** Islam–Shia  
**Believers:** 0.0001%  
**Scriptures:** None  
**Ministry Tools:** JR  
**C Status:** 0 **M Status:** 0  
**MS Subgroups:** 12+



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

**Identity:** The Lur are an Indo-Iranian nomadic tribe of ancient origin which lived in the rugged buffer zone between the Medes and the Persians, extending from Lake Urmia to the north of Kermanshah. Their language forms a linguistic bridge between Bakhtiari and Western Farsi.

**Lifestyle:** Up until the last century the Lur were engaged primarily in nomadic pastoralism. From 1922-1933 the Iranian government attempted to de-tribalize the Lur and force them to settle in farming communities. The result was a decade long war, which the Lur eventually lost. Over 90% of their herds were killed, their tribal chiefs executed, and their tents destroyed and burned. Today, a few Lur tribes have re-established their herds and have developed a semi-nomadic lifestyle.

**Customs:** The Lur are divided into dozens of tribes and sub-tribes which are ruled by hereditary chiefs, or

khan. The khan ensures the peace between sub-tribes, and enforces his rulings through an army of retainers. He functions also as a court of appeals for disputes that cannot be resolved at the local level. The khan receives an annual tax of grain and animals to cover his administrative expenses.

**Religion:** The Lur are primarily Shia Muslims, though they have often been regarded as backward and unorthodox by their fellow Shiites in Iran. The Lur have appropriated various animistic beliefs into Islam, such as their concept of *baraka*, which associates power and divine grace with objects, including pages of the Quran, materials belonging to holy men, and articles which have been laid at the tomb of a venerated saint. Following the Islamic Revolution in Iran there has been an attempt to curb these practices, but to little avail.

**Christian Outreach:** As with most tribal peoples in Iran, ongoing ministry

to the Lur has been virtually non-existent. However, short-term outreach by both Iranian believers and expatriate teams has revealed an openness among them to the gospel, and there are reports of a few Lur who have had dreams of Jesus and trusted him as their savior.

## How to Pray:

✞ Pray for a team of Strategy Coordinators planning outreach to the Lur. Ask God to reveal the best way to establish a long-term ministry among them, coordinated with indigenous Persian, Assyrian and Armenian believers.

✞ Praise God for the production of the Jesus film into Luri. Pray that the gospel of Luke, which the film is based on, will be published and distributed among all those who view the film. Pray also for the complete translation of the Bible into the two major dialects of Luri.

✞ Pray for spiritual breakthrough among each of the major Lur tribes and sub-tribes, and especially for the conversion of their influential hereditary khans.

✞ Pray for contextualized ministry among the more nomadic Lur sub-groups.

**Every year 35,000  
 Lur die  
 without Christ.**