



SAT-7 NEWS



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SAT-7 TÜRK SUPPORTS ISOLATED BELIEVERS

Only around 200,000 people out of Turkey's almost 80 million population are Christians. Unsurprisingly, Christians in the region can feel isolated and misunderstood. However, in a recent online survey viewers shared that SAT-7 TÜRK is helping them understand the Christian faith and providing valuable support.

One of the aims of a recent SAT-7 TÜRK online survey was to find out how viewers have been impacted by the channel. The results were encouraging with 1 in 3 respondents saying they grew in their understanding of the Christian faith, felt supported in times of difficulty, or felt more connected to other Christians.

It is important to acknowledge that the respondents were a small sample of SAT-7 TÜRK viewers and not representative of the channel's entire audience. However, these responses do provide evidence that SAT-7 TÜRK is succeeding in its mission of bringing God's love in an effective way to isolated believers.

UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIANITY

With very few Christians in Turkey, it is not surprising that there are many misconceptions about Christianity.

Therefore, it is encouraging that over a third of respondents said that SAT-7 TÜRK had helped them grow in understanding of the Christian faith. This is helpful for believers who lack access to Christian teaching, and also for those of different faiths who have misunderstandings about Christianity. One man's testimony demonstrates this:

"My wife was impressed when she watched the channel with me. She understood that Christians are not monsters, especially through watching movies. She gained a broader perspective, and my faith has deepened."

NOT ALONE

"There was no church where I used to live. I remained with the Lord by watching SAT-7 TÜRK," wrote a female viewer. She is one of many who

expressed their joy at having a Christian television channel – such as SAT-7 TÜRK – available to them.

Christians living in Turkey often struggle to find opportunities for fellowship, and some viewers reported having no-one to talk to and no church to go to in their local area.

SAT-7 TÜRK is helping to bridge this gap between believers, with 29 percent of viewers reporting that the channel helped them feel more connected to other Christians.

One viewer shared:

"Thanks to you, I don't feel alone. I can't really attend church, but your programs are great for my faith. They help me remain on the path of Jesus Christ, and to find my way whenever I am lost. Thank you to everyone who works for this channel." ■

NEW KIDS' BIBLE PROGRAM GETS GREAT RESPONSE

An interactive new live SAT-7 KIDS show is getting children excited about the Bible. The first episode of *A Riddle and a Story* received an enthusiastic response from viewers who called in to the program.

The SAT-7 KIDS team even received a rare phone call from a father in Algeria (usually Algerian viewers do not call in live), who was watching the program with his family.

"The kids are so happy with the new show. Congratulations! We would like to take part in the program," he said, as his children excitedly shouted their thanks in the background.

CREATING GOOD SAMARITANS

Each 90-minute episode of *A Riddle and a Story* features songs, drama segments, and special reports that relate to a biblical tale. Viewers can call in throughout the show to take part in a competition relating to the story, and a winner is picked from those who have given the correct answers and announced at the end of the program.

The first instalment focused on the parable of the Good Samaritan. The program featured a mini-drama in which a young girl needs help, but each of her friends comes up with an excuse rather than lending a hand.

Hints were also given in a psychological segment about the importance of

helping others and in a field report recorded at a school, in which children were asked what they would do if the class bully needed their support.

PRACTICAL BIBLICAL TEACHING

The show is the brainchild of producer and scriptwriter Marianne Awaraji and her director husband, Rawad. Marianne, who is also a popular SAT-7 KIDS Presenter, explains the aim of *A Riddle and a Story*.

"It is built on explaining Bible stories for kids in very practical ways," she says. "I grew up in church, so I knew the stories, but I did not know the meaning of most of them or how to apply it to my life. I want children to grow up understanding these stories and knowing how to apply them."

HELPING CHILDREN RELATE

The stories are introduced to viewers by talented young presenters Keana and Joyce. The girls, who are new to presenting, have been mentored by Marianne and Rawad.

"It is very hard to go live on television. When you are on a live show, you have to take phone calls and answer the kids'

questions. You have to know when it is time to play a song, or go to the clip, or a break. It is challenging, but they are doing a good job."

CREATING CURIOSITY

The presenters appear in an attractive set that grabs viewers' attention. Rawad describes the show as "a place where every child would like to be – playing in a colourful house, making music with their friends."

The team hope that the remaining 25 live episodes of this season will continue to receive a warm response from children and that the show will help viewers grow in their spiritual lives.

"I want to create curiosity in children's hearts, to inspire them to love the Bible and think that the stories are interesting," says Marianne.

"I want them to think, 'I can relate to this. Reading the Bible is so important for our Christian lives and relationship with God.'" ■

"I really thank you, because you helped me deliver Christ to my daughter." - *Mother in Egypt*

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