



READ THE LAND. SEE THE TEXT. LIVE THE BOOK.

What You Will Learn

This two-week introduction to the historical and geographical settings of the Bible will enrich your knowledge and appreciation of the reality of Scripture. Your understanding of the Bible will be strengthened as you recount biblical events in their actual locations. Your experiences will give substance to images that the biblical writers used to communicate the realities of God and His work in the world. This non-credit program is taught by the same academically-qualified faculty members who teach our for-credit short-term programs. Participants in the Pastor and Parishioner program may be able to receive academic credit if they complete additional course work at the discretion of the instructor.

What You Will Do

Our short-term programs of study are quite different from typical Holy Land tours. Our instructors are academically-qualified faculty members who will lead in your discovery of the land of the Bible. You will visit nearly the entire country of Israel, including sites not normally viewed by participants of typical tours. While daily hiking can be rigorous and sustained in rugged terrain, it will allow you to read the Bible on site while enhancing your spiritual life and ministry like never before.

Program Preparation

All group members are required to complete the JUC mapping packet prior to arrival. The mapping packet includes:

- *Regions on the Run*
- 7 Regional Study Maps
- *Regional Study Guide*
- JUC Fieldbook (receive upon arrival)



PASTOR & PARISHIONER TENTATIVE SITES

Jerusalem Walks

- The Four Quarters of the Old City of Jerusalem
- Mount Zion
- City of David
- Western Wall
- Southern Steps of the Temple Mount
- Pool of Bethesda
- Church of the Holy Sepulchre

Dead Sea Field Study

- Masada
- Ein Gedi
- Qumran
- Dead Sea beach for swimming

Galilee Field Study

- Sepphoris
- Arbel
- Hazor
- Dan
- Baniyas / Caesarea Philippi
- Golan Heights
- Capernaum
- Magdala
- Tabgha / Primacy of Peter
- Chorazim
- Mount of Beatitudes
- Kursi
- Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee
- Swimming in the Sea of Galilee

Jerusalem Approaches Field Study

- Mount of Olives and its churches
- Herodium
- Bethlehem

Benjamin/Ephraim Field Study

- Judean Wilderness / Wadi Qilt
- Jericho
- Nebi Samwil
- Gezer

Judah/Shephelah/Philistia Field Study

- Beth Shemesh
- Valley of Elah
- Bet Guvrin
- Lachish
- Ashkelon

Jordan Field Study (optional)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

New Testament Jerusalem Walk

Goals:

- Understand the character of NT Jerusalem (often called Second Temple Jerusalem), including its infrastructure (walls, water systems, streets and temple).
- Explore the city's role as the major center of Jewish life in the time of the Gospels.
- Learn the way that the Gospel writers and Josephus knew and described the city.
- Appreciate the pull that Jerusalem, the city of redemption, has on the Gospel story.

Sites typically visited: area south and west of the *Temple Mount* (the Davidson Center / Robinson's Arch and southern stairs) and the *Pool of Bethesda / St. Anne's church*.

Old Testament Jerusalem Walk

Goals:

- Recognize character of Old Testament Jerusalem (often called First Temple Jerusalem), including its setting among the hills, its location and shape, its infrastructure (walls, water systems, palaces, temple).
- Understand the city's role as the capital of David and Solomon and then the kingdom of Judah.
- Realize the expressions that the biblical writers used to describe their city.

Sites typically visited: The *City of David* with *Hezekiah's Tunnel*, and the *Broad Wall* in the Jewish Quarter.

Jerusalem Approaches

Goals:

- Learn how to view the city of Jerusalem within its regional context, by seeing how it is connected to other cities and places in the Hill Country of Judah and the Judean Wilderness.
- Discover the location and function of the natural routes which connect Jerusalem to the coast (west), the Jordan Valley (east), and to the watershed (north and south).
- Appreciate the biblical events that involved coming and going to Jerusalem.

Sites typically visited: The *Mount of Olives* and the *Garden of Gethsemane*, the *Herodium*, and the *Church of the Nativity* and *Shepherd's Fields* in Bethlehem.

Benjamin Field Study

Goals:

- Explore the full cross-section of the land of ancient Israel in terms of geography, topography, resources, routes, and strategic access points.
- Understand the role of the land of Benjamin as a gateway between Jerusalem and the outside world.
- Realize how the land of Benjamin served as a buffer between Judah and Israel.
- Study key biblical events that took place in this strategic region.

Sites typically visited: The *Wadi Qilt* in the Judean Wilderness, the Old Testament and New Testament sites of *Jericho*, *Nebi Samwil* on the Central Benjamin Plateau, and *Gezer*.

Judah/Shephelah/Philistia Field Study

Goals:

- Discover the zones that surround Jerusalem to the west, south and east.
- Understand the Shephelah as a buffer zone and a gateway connecting Judah and the coast.
- Appreciate the coastal plain as an international zone of opportunity and threat.

Sites typically visited: *Sataf* in the Judean hill country; Shephelah sites such as *Beth-shemesh*, *Azekah*, *Beth-guvrin* and *Lachish*; *Ashkelon* on the coast.

Dead Sea Field Study

Goals:

- Experience the Dead Sea as one of the most unique ecosystems on earth, a place of great resource and need, and the setting for people throughout the biblical period who wanted to reestablish their connections with God.

Sites typically visited: *Dead Sea*, *Masada*, *En-gedi* (or the Nahal Arugot) and *Qumran*.

Galilee Field Study (four days)

Goals:

- Understand biblical phrase “Galilee of the Gentiles” in its Old and New Testament contexts.
- Appreciate the tremendous geographical variety of the various regions that make up Galilee.
- Explore the reasons that Galilee is highly desired for its natural highways and fertility.
- Learn the role of the Jezreel Valley in separating Galilee from the heartland of Israel.
- Discover the setting of the Gospel story around Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee.

Sites typically visited: *Caesarea* on the Mediterranean Sea; *Mount Carmel*, *Megiddo*, *Jezreel* and *Beth-shean* along the Jezreel Valley system; *Nazareth* and *Sepphoris* in Lower Galilee; *Hazor*, *Dan* and *Caesarea-philippi* in the north; the *Golan Heights*; and several sites around the Sea of Galilee including *Capernaum*, *Chorazin*, *Magdala* and *Arbel*.

(optional)

Jordan Field Study (three days)

Goals:

- Learn the characteristics of the various regions that make up Transjordan, including its heartlands (Ammon, Moab and Edom) and the buffers between them.
- Discover the similarities and differences between the lands east and west of the Rift Valley, and the peoples whom we meet there in the biblical story.
- Understand the role of the eastern desert within the historical and geographical context.
- Realize the great footprint of Rome and the Nabateans.
- Appreciate the fullness of the biblical story in Transjordan.

Regions and sites typically visited: *Gilead*, *Jerash*, the *Jabbok River*, *Moab* and its capital *Dibon*, *Edom* and its capital *Bozrah*, *Ammon* and its capital *Rabbah* (the Amman Citadel), *Petra*, *Madaba* and *Mount Nebo*.