

The Life & World of Jesus

*A Shoresh Study Tours Itinerary
FAM Tour 2022*

Dates February 21 to March 3

Tour Group Leaders: Neil and Marcia Lebhar

We will trace the life of Jesus from his home in Galilee to Jerusalem, giving particular attention to the First Century Jewish context in which Jesus lived. Our goal is a better understanding of Jesus' ministry and a better application of His teachings for us today.

Day 1 Monday February 21

ARRIVAL IN THE LAND OF PROMISE

We arrive late in the afternoon at Ben Gurion Airport near **Tel Aviv**, where we will be met by our guide and bus driver for the trip. From the airport we will travel to our hotel on the **Mediterranean Coast**. Time permitting there may be a possible opportunity to stroll on the beach before or after dinner. After dinner (or after breakfast the next day) we will have a brief meeting for introductions, some orientation, and prayer. Overnight: Seasons, Netanya, Mediterranean Coast

Day 2 Tuesday February 22

LIGHT TO THE NATIONS - Jews, Gentiles, and the Messiah

Today we travel north up the coast and then eastwards inland to the Galilee, visiting a number of Biblical sites that testify to God's faithfulness to His word, past, present, and future. We begin our day at the fabulous ruins of the Herodian city of **Caesarea Maritima**, the site of the conversion of Cornelius and the location from which Paul left the shores of Israel and set sail on his journey to Rome. We then travel up the coast to **Mount Carmel**, with a spectacular view over the North of Israel, near the spot where Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal. We continue along the route of the ancient **Via Maris** to **Megiddo**, one of King Solomon's cities, and according the Book of Revelation possibly the assembly point for the armies marching to the battle of Armageddon. We conclude our day at ancient **Nazareth**, Jesus' boyhood home and place of His early ministry. Overnight: Maagan Sea of Galilee

Day 3 Wednesday February 23

AROUND THE SEA OF GALILEE - Daily Life and Religion in the Time of Jesus

Our day will be spent visiting various sites around the Sea of Galilee as we try to picture daily life and religion in the First Century, and seek to better understand the miracles and teachings of Jesus in His original Jewish context. We will start the day at **Chorazin**, the ruins of a typical Galilean village, where we study village life, Jewish religion, and the Pharisees. Our next stop will be the **Mount of Beatitudes**, traditional site of the Sermon on the Mount, where we will consider the Kingdom of God in Jesus' teachings. After a short walk or drive down the hill we will arrive at **Capernaum**, the town where Jesus lived during the majority of His ministry. At lovely **Tabgha**, which commemorates the multiplication of loaves and fish, and where Jesus met the disciples after the resurrection, we will enjoy a contemplative time on the shore of the Lake. Later in the afternoon we will visit Kibbutz Ginosar to see the "**Jesus Boat**", a Galilean fishing boat from the First Century. From here we will set sail for a **boat ride on the Lake** to enjoy the views and some worship, prayer and reflective time. After dinner we will meet with a local believer. Overnight: Maagan Sea of Galilee

Day 4 Thursday February 24

NORTHERN ISRAEL - "Who Do Men Say That I Am?"

Today we explore Northern Israel, one of the most beautiful regions of the country. We will seek to understand what the Jewish people of 2,000 years ago expected of the Messiah, and how that was fulfilled in Jesus. Our first stop is the **Dan Nature Reserve**, where we see the incredible archaeological remains of the **Old Testament city of Dan**, including the city gate from the time of Abraham and consider ancient Israel's apostasy. We will also enjoy a pleasant walk by a stream and discuss the meaning of "living water" in the Hebrew Scriptures and Jesus' teaching. Traveling up to the magnificent **Golan Heights**, we will visit a reconstructed Talmudic village at **Katzrin**, where we will take another close look at life in New Testament times and the use of everyday imagery in Scripture. Next we will travel along the lower slopes of **Mount Hermon** - Israel's highest mountain, and the most likely site of the Transfiguration. Time permitting as the Jewish Sabbath starts at sundown, we will make a quick stop at **Caesarea Philippi**, in the region where Peter made his famous confession that Jesus is the Messiah. Overnight: Maagan Sea of Galilee

Day 5 Friday February 25

THE JORDAN VALLEY - "In the World But Not of It"

Today we leave the Galilee and journey south down the spectacular **Syrian African Rift Valley** to the Dead Sea in the arid Judean wilderness. We will study the cultural tensions that existed at the time of Jesus, both between Greco-Roman culture and Jewish culture (and later the early church), and also between the Jewish religious establishment of the day and various spiritual reformers. At the **Jordan River**, we will discuss the ministry of John the Baptist and his relationship with Jesus. It is here, that we may remember our baptisms by visiting a baptismal site on the Jordan River. From here we continue down the Jordan Valley to the arid Judean Wilderness, passing by the region of **Jericho** - the oldest and lowest city on earth, where we will eat lunch. We will finish our afternoon by enjoying a float in the therapeutic mineral rich waters of the **Dead Sea**.

Overnight: David Hotel Dead Sea

Day 6 Saturday February 26

THE JUDEAN DESERT - Seeking Refuge in the Wilderness Our theme today is the wilderness and what it signified to the ancient Israelites. We begin our day in the early morning driving to the beautiful subtropical oasis of **Ein Gedi**, where David hid from Saul. Depending on conditions, we can walk into the nature reserve and possibly to the waterfalls. We may see some wildlife, including the furry rock badger and the graceful ibex. We will visit **Qumran**, likely the home of the Essenes, a First Century Jewish sect which may have influenced early Christianity, and the site of the most exciting archaeological discovery ever made in Israel - the Dead Sea Scrolls. It is there that we will eat lunch. We will then make the final ascent to **Jerusalem** - the City of the Great King. We will stop to take a view of the city from the **Mount of Olives** and then head to the **Israel Museum** where we can see a model of the city of Jerusalem during the time of the Second Temple period, Jesus' day. After dinner, the Director of Shoresh will lead us on a short stroll to a **rooftop panorama of the Old City**.

Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

Day 7 Sunday February 27

FREE DAY IN JERUSALEM

We will have an opportunity to participate in the morning worship service at Christ Church. The rest of the day is free for rest, reflection, shopping, or for the energetic, perhaps a walk on

the walls of the Old City. *Shoresh will provide a list of interesting options for those who want to explore on their own.* Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

Day 8 Monday February 28

JERUSALEM IN THE TIME OF JESUS - The Temple at the Center

Today will be devoted to learning about Jerusalem in Jesus' day, when the Temple in Jerusalem was the center of Jewish life. We will study how worship was performed in the temple, the Sadducees and Jesus' attitude towards them, and generally enrich our insight into many important events in the gospels and book of Acts. We will start at the place where it all began - the **City of David**. Here we will learn about King David's conquest of the Jebusite city, and walk through **Hezekiah's Tunnel** to the **Pool of Siloam**. From here we continue to the excavations near the base of the Temple Mount and discuss Pentecost on the **Southern Steps** where Jesus walked. After a visit to the **Western Wall** place of prayer, Judaism's most holy site, we make our way through the **Jewish Quarter** of the Old City to see the **Herodian Villas**, the palatial mansions that were the home to the Sadducees, the ruling priesthood at the time of Jesus. Following lunch we will finish our day at the **City of David**, the site of David's palace and an excavation of an Old Testament water tunnel. Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

Day 9 Tuesday March 1

IN THE STEPS OF JESUS - Crucifixion, Death, Burial and Resurrection

Today we study both a great tragedy and the wonder of the Lord's redemptive power. We will examine the systematic annihilation of six million Jews in the Nazi genocide, God coming to earth in the form of a man to save His people from their sins, and the loving witness of Christians committed to the Biblical restoration. We travel to **Yad VaShem**, the Israel Memorial Museum to the Holocaust. Here we examine the spiritual and theological roots of the most notorious genocide in history and the connection between the Church, Jesus and the Jewish people. From here we take the short drive to **Bethlehem**, where we will visit the **Church of the Nativity**, which marks the probable site of the birth of Jesus, and the "**Shepherd's Fields**" where the angels heralded the advent of Messiah. Time permitting, we will expand our understanding of the role of the Lamb of God by celebrating a **Jewish Passover Seder meal** together, making Biblical connections to the "last supper" that Jesus shared with his disciples. Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

Day 10 Wednesday March 2 - Ash Wednesday

IN THE STEPS OF JESUS - Crucifixion, Death, Burial and Resurrection

We hope to participate in an Ash Wednesday service at some point today. Today we focus on sites related to the Biblical passages concerning Jesus' last week in Jerusalem. Our goal is to understand why He was crucified, how He was buried, and what it meant to the Jewish people of the First Century that He was raised from the dead. We begin our day at the Citadel, the place where Jesus was tried. After viewing a **tomb from the time of Jesus**, we will walk down the Mount of Olives to **Gethsemane**. Next, we cross the **Kidron Valley** and enter the Old City through **Stephen's Gate**, stopping to examine the remains of the **Pool of Bethesda**. From here we walk to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, the most likely site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus. We end our tour with a reflective time at a site that wonderfully illustrates Jesus' burial and resurrection, the peaceful **Garden Tomb**.

Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem.

Day 11 Thursday March 3

Depending on flight departure time, there are several options for this day.

Departure options:

Note: Not all departure schedules can have free transport to the airport provided, given the variety of options.

Some may choose to depart late Wednesday night.

Early Morning Departure: Straight Home

We say farewell to Jerusalem and descend through the mountains of Judea to the airport on the coastal plain to catch the flight home.

Afternoon Departure: NATURE IMAGERY IN SCRIPTURE

This morning we will visit the Biblical landscape reserve of **Neot Kedumim** in the Judean lowlands. Walking on the beautiful hillsides, we will discover some of the rich symbolism of the cedar, hyssop, olive and other trees and plants, as well as trying our hand at herding sheep and goats. We will drive across the Sharon Plain to the airport in plenty of time to catch the flight home.

IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE:

- *Most days on this itinerary involve a regular amount of walking and/or climbing. Therefore this trip cannot generally accommodate those who have significant difficulty with climbing stairs or walking a half a mile at a time. Please be in contact with the trip leaders if you have any concerns about this.*
- *Itinerary and accommodation subject to change if conditions necessitate.*
- *It is mandatory for each participant to have travel insurance to cover medical costs or trip cancellations.*

A visit to consider: **Christ Church Heritage Centre** to learn about CMJ's 200-year history of ministry to the Jewish people.

- With sufficient notice, accommodations may be arranged for those wishing to arrive early or those who need to arrive after February 21. Additional costs may apply.