

BibleWise

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[Holy Land Tour of Netanya](#)

- Find Tel Aviv on the map. Has this modern city always been called Tel Aviv?
- Imagine how long it would have taken you to go 20 miles 2000 years ago! How would you have traveled that distance?
- What other products would have been grown in ancient times?
- Why was it such a surprise to Cornelius to hear God tell him to find Simon Peter?
- Why were Gentiles considered to be “unclean”?
- What practices do we follow today that might be judgmental or narrow-minded? That might be excluding others? Or causing us to see others as inferior?

Holy Land Questions prepared by Amy E Sparkman

Holy Land Tour of Caesarea

- Check the map to see how big the Roman Empire was – how much influence Rome had over so many cities and people. Rome ruled by laws. How did Jesus lead people?
- Why weren't there many Jews in Roman cities?
- What else besides theater productions might have been considered “unclean”?
- What do you think contributed to Herod's death?
- Look at a map of the ancient world to see how far Peter had to go to reach Asia Minor and Greece. How long would a trip like that take in his day? How would he have traveled?
- What's the difference between the word “apostle” and the word “disciple”?
- Which of the disciples were also apostles?
- Why weren't there any passenger ships at that time?
- Imagine the “history” between Paul and Philip. Could you spend the night, eating and talking with someone who had once been your enemy, to the point of trying to kill you? Why could these two men do it?
- Saul's conversion story is pretty remarkable...and complete – Paul never turned back to being Saul-like again. Can you imagine anyone today who could benefit from a Saul-Paul conversion experience? How could each of us be “transformed”?

Holy Land Questions prepared by Amy E Sparkman

Holy Land Tour of Megiddo

- Imagine what it must have taken to create the “tell” by hand, without dump trucks or bulldozers? What kind of human strength would that require? How many people? How long would it take to create a mound big enough for a city to be built on it?
- What ways can you think of that the Megiddo citizens might have used to keep themselves safe?
- Can you think of any cities outside of the Holy Land that have been destroyed and rebuilt?
- Think of the different ways the gates were used in ancient times. Where do those same activities take place in a modern city?
- Imagine being able to hear all the day’s news as you pass through the gate. How do we hear the day’s news today? Do you think we are more connected or less connected to our neighbors today than in ancient times? Why or why not? Is the change a good thing? Why or why not?
- Imagine the scene of Boaz securing permission from the other relative to marry Ruth, finding 10 witnesses, and sealing the agreement all in one day at one gate! Now imagine what it would take to do the same thing today. Which would be easier?
- Read the story of Absalom in II Samuel. Why did David neglect his duties? What else did Absalom do to steal the hearts of the people away from David?
- Why would a granary be built in the ground?
- Abraham was one of the most devout, God-fearing, faithful and obedient men who ever lived. So why didn’t he follow through with the sacrifice of his son, Isaac?
- Do a little research to find out what the farms all around Megiddo produced.
- Make a list in your class of good things about living in Bible times and compare it to reasons you might have for complaining about living in modern times!

Holy Land Questions prepared by Amy E Sparkman

Peter in Prison Read Acts 12:3-18 [An Angel Helps Peter Escape From Prison](#); [How Peter’s Coming Broke Up A Midnight Prayer-Meeting](#)

- Who killed James, the brother of John, and put Peter in prison?
- What did the church members do while Peter was in prison?
- How did Peter get out of prison?
- Did Peter know what was actually happening?
- Where did Peter go after he got out of prison?
- Who answered the door?
- What did she do?
- How did the people there respond?

- Do we sometimes question the answers to our prayers?

Saul Sees the Light Read Acts 9; [A Bright Light](#); [Saul Sees the Light](#)

- Who consented to Stephen's death?
- Where was Saul going and what was he going to do?
- What happened as he traveled?
- Who talked with Saul?
- Why was Saul blinded?
- Which disciple was told to go and heal Saul?
- Why didn't he want to see Saul?
- Would you have trusted God and visited Saul, a known killer of those who followed Jesus?
- How did Ananias greet Saul?
- What did Saul do after his healing?
- Why was Saul so important to the Christian church?
- By what name is he best known?

Ruth Read Ruth; [Ruth and Naomi](#); [The Young Woman Who Forsook Idols to Serve God](#)

- Ask the students to tell the story of Ruth.
- Who is Ruth? (teachers may want to read [Bible Characters](#) (from our 2004 archives) and [Ruth](#) (from our 2004 archives) in Bible Overview)
- The name Ruth means friendship.
- How does Ruth show she is a friend?
- Who is she a friend to?
- After reading the story of Ruth, what qualities did Ruth express?
- Would Ruth make a good friend? Why or why not?
- What did Ruth do that was so unexpected?
- Why was staying with Naomi a surprise?
- What task did she take on to make sure they had food to eat?
- Why was Boaz important to Naomi? Ruth?
- What task did Boaz perform at the city gate?
- Why did he offer his sandal in the bargain for Ruth?

Absalom Read II Samuel 15; [The Wicked Prince Who Tried to Steal His](#)

Discuss with older students. This is a story of deception.

- Why did the people love Absalom? (II Sam 15:1-6)
- Why did Absalom deceive the people? David?
- Why did David flee?
- What important lessons do we learn from David and his family?
- What are some of the negative characteristics that need to be cast out? (pride, greed, lust, selfishness, hatred, jealousy, anger, deception, vanity, pretense)
- How do we avoid these characteristics?

Cornelius Read Acts 10; read the story from [Netanya](#) slides 8-14

- Who is Cornelius?
- What did Cornelius see in a vision?
- Where was Peter?
- Why was he told to get in touch with Peter?
- How did God reveal Himself to Peter?
- What was Peter told to do?
- What does “unclean” mean in this instance?
- What did Peter say to Cornelius?
- What was Peter’s message to Cornelius about Jesus?
- What kind of person was Cornelius?
- How does God reveal Himself to you?

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