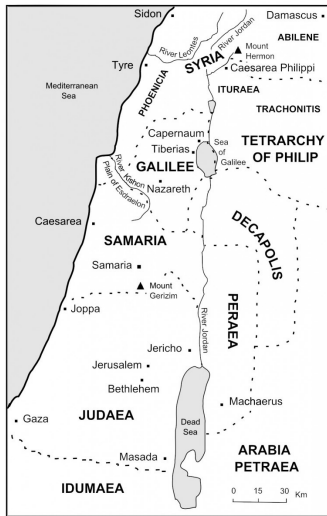




# Summer Seedlings

July 8 The Land with Three Seas



Jesus lived in Palestine/Israel over 2000 years ago.

It is at the eastern edge of the Mediterranean Sea. If you have a world map or a globe you could look for the Mediterranean Sea below Spain, Italy and Greece and above Africa. In the map below you can see the name of the Mediterranean Sea on the left and the coastline of Palestine/Israel so you set Israel/ Palestine in the right place. It is possible to make your own map from everyday things, especially those found in the kitchen.

- Your map can show
- ~ the Mediterranean Sea
  - ~ the Sea of Galilee
  - ~ the Dead Sea
  - ~ the River Jordan
  - ~ Nazareth
  - ~ Bethlehem
  - ~ Jerusalem

Check that you have found on the activity sheet map everywhere you need, then you can create your own. You will have your own clever ideas but if you need some pointers : you could use a tea towel for the Mediterranean Sea, plates/ baskets of different sizes for the two other seas, upturned cups/beakers for places, spoons for the River Jordan or how about all different kinds of fruit/vegetables to make the map an edible one.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the area called Judea because Joseph and Mary had travelled there to be counted in the Census. The family came from Nazareth in the area called Galilee and Jesus spent nearly all his life there. Galilee has its own freshwater sea, the Sea of Galilee, which had several important trading towns around it, many fishing boats on it and it was a popular place for people who did not feel very well because of its warm climate and reputed healing springs nearby. It did however because of how the land lay round and about, have one disadvantage. Sudden and severe storms could blow up to threaten the boats on the water.

Jesus travelled through the area of Galilee and especially around the Sea of Galilee meeting people, telling stories and parables to small and very large crowds, explaining how God wanted them to live and how they should love one another. He travelled by walking along hot dusty roads and paths. Jesus also crossed the Sea of Galilee several times by boat to meet people and also to look for a quiet spot away from all the crowds. The River Jordan comes into the Sea of Galilee at its top and continues on from the southern end of the Sea passing through a deep valley and on into the Dead Sea.

## Why not try .....?

The Dead Sea is also called the Sea of Salt so it is completely different from the Sea of Galilee. It is 9.6 times more salty than the oceans of the world and because of this, plants and animals find it extremely difficult to live in it. One thing you can do though is to float in it without any effort. In the area of Judea, to the west of the Dead Sea where Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Jesus also travelled many roads by foot and preached to its people.

The city of Jerusalem, the centre of the Jewish world is in Judea. Jesus was taken there as a baby, then in his early teens and for the very important feast of the Passover. Finally Jerusalem was where the Easter story took place.

Why not play this video and check the difference between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea using an egg:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQSx90of\\_H8&app=desktop](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQSx90of_H8&app=desktop)



Dear God  
 What an amazing place the world is. It has oceans, seas and rivers. Forests, plains, valleys and mountains. Help us to care for it all and everyone who lives in it. Showing your love and concern.  
 Amen

