

2019 EXPERIENCE ISRAEL TOUR

Study Guide for 6c & 6d – Capernaum and Mount of Beatitudes



Historical background: Capernaum lies on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee. It is about 3 miles west of where the Jordan River enters the Sea of Galilee in the north. The ancient city was situated on the major road between Damascus, Syria, and points southward throughout central Israel and beyond to Egypt. Capernaum was a significant city in the time of Christ because of its location on the Sea of Galilee and because it straddled a major trade route, which stretched from Mesopotamia in the north to Egypt in the south. Capernaum became the central point of the ministry of Jesus, and many of His miracles occurred in or near the city. Excavations there have uncovered “stacked” synagogues from the 1st century, where Jesus sometimes taught on the Sabbath (Mark 1:21), and the 4th century. Also found was an octagonal structure, thought to be built around the smaller home of the Apostle Peter’s mother-in-law. The people of Capernaum saw many great miracles with their own two eyes, and they heard His very words of truth and wisdom with their own two ears. Yet, they refused to repent and believe. In doing so, Jesus denounced the cities who witnessed His miracles but who did not repent (Matthew 11:20-24).

Historical background: The Mount of Beatitudes towers above the Sea of Galilee. It is the traditional site of the Sermon on the Mount, in which Jesus spoke the beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-11; Luke 6:20-22). Although there is some discrepancy between Matthew’s version being on a hill and Luke’s being on a level place. It will be easy to see the possibility for both options when you observe the many level places on the Galilean hillsides during your visit to this site. Scripture does not confirm the exact location, but Kym mentions in her blog that, “Jesus almost certainly taught that sermon from this place, as it has natural acoustics which would have enabled the thousands who followed Him to hear.” A Catholic chapel was built on the mountaintop in 1930 by the Franciscan Sisters with the support of the Italian ruler Mussolini. The architect, Antonio Barluzzi, constructed the octagonal sanctuary to commemorate the eight Beatitudes.



Picture taken from the Mount of Beatitudes

Bible Application: In the photo above and to the right (taken from the Mount of Beatitudes), Capernaum lies at the base of Mount Arbel, clearly seen in the picture. Let’s study the miracles that took place in Capernaum:

1. Read Matthew 4:12-16. After Jesus was rejected in Nazareth, he went to _____ by the sea and made it his hometown and the center of His activity for more than a year.
2. What does Isaiah 9:1 say?

3. Jesus performed many miracles in his own city of Capernaum. Read about one in Matthew 9:1-8 and Mark 2:1-12. What was the miracle? _____
4. Tolls were collected on trade routes or highways. Notice the route that travels along the Sea of Galilee passing right by Capernaum. There Jesus saw a man called _____ sitting at the tax booth and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him (Matthew 9:9-13).

5. On the Sabbath, Jesus taught in the synagogue that lies beneath the one pictured to the right ([Mark 1:21-28](#)). What miracle did Jesus perform in the synagogue here in Capernaum?



_____.

Immediately Jesus left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, and healed Simon's _____, who was sick with a fever. ([Mark 1:29-34](#))

6. Jesus also healed a _____ servant ([Matthew 8:5-13](#)). Capernaum was a Roman military center, and this Roman centurion was worthy of Jesus' attention. [Luke 7:1-10](#) says, "For he [centurion] loves our nation, and he is the one who _____ us our synagogue."
7. On his way to heal Jairus's daughter from the dead, Jesus healed the woman who suffered for twelve years from a medical condition ([Matthew 9:18-26](#); [Mark 5:22-43](#); [Luke 8:50-56](#)).
8. When the official heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his _____, for he was at the point of death ([John 4:47](#)).
9. More of Christ's recorded miracles were performed in Capernaum than in any other city. Yet the people did not repent. Jesus denounced the cities who witnessed His miracles yet failed to repent ([Matthew 11:20-24](#)). The town ended up as a ruin. Greg Laurie has spoken words of conviction in this [video](#).

Thanksgiving and Praise: Has God revealed something that you know is true, but you have not responded? Let's be intentional by asking God for one area in our lives that needs a response. Once He reveals it to you, then make a response plan. For example, I was challenged to show my appreciation for my pastor by praying for him and holding fast to the things he has taught me ([1 Thessalonians 5:12-22](#)). My plan is to set a weekly alarm to remind me.

Digging Deeper:

- Kym's blog: [Capernaum: A Look and a Lesson](#) includes a live 23 minute video with Amir Tsarfati teaching right from Capernaum.
- "Remember the account of the paralytic who was lowered through the roof because the crowds were too big to get the man to Jesus? Well, that happened in Peter's house, pictured...! Take a moment right now to read [Mark 2:1-13](#). (No really! Stop and read it!) Did the Bible come alive!?" quotes Kym in her blog: [Capernaum, The Center of Jesus' Ministry](#).
- [Capernaum, the town of Jesus-Video](#): This 10 minute video explains the way Capernaum is divided into two parts, the Franciscan and Greek Orthodox. It is very informative about the history and ruins of the site.
- Kym's blog: [Mount of Beatitudes](#)



Keep looking for blessings!