

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Encountering Jesus in the New Testament**  
Directed Reading Worksheet  
Chapter 3 *The New Testament World of Jesus*

**Directions:** Read through the chapter and fill in the missing information. All the questions run sequential to the chapter. If a true/false statement is false, correct it.

**Introduction *Who Was Jesus of Nazareth?*** (pp. 108 – 114)

1. Several languages were used in \_\_\_\_\_ during the first century. Although the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jews were read aloud in Hebrew, it had to be translated into \_\_\_\_\_ for most Jews. Aramaic is a language closely related to \_\_\_\_\_ and it is also the language \_\_\_\_\_ spoke. Additionally, \_\_\_\_\_ Greek was used for commerce and education while some \_\_\_\_\_ was spoken by Roman officials.
2. What have scholars learned about Jesus' words by translating them back into the original Aramaic? What are examples?
3. Identify which speech form is defined below.
  - Overstating an idea to emphasize the point
  - Emphasizing a thought by repeating it
  - Repeating an important thought twice, in a slightly different way
4. What is the most important goal of reading the Gospels and learning about Jesus and his times?

**Section 1 Jesus' Public Ministry Took Place in Palestine** (pp. 116 – 125)

5. The region of the world where Jesus lived, called \_\_\_\_\_ by the Greeks, had always been a \_\_\_\_\_ place to ancient \_\_\_\_\_. It was a strategic land \_\_\_\_\_ between two continents and served as a \_\_\_\_\_ for the Egyptian, Syrian, and Persian expansion. Palestine stretched \_\_\_\_\_ miles from north to south and from 25 miles to \_\_\_\_\_ miles from east to west.
6. Briefly describe the four major terrains of Palestine.
7. True or False? Galilee was the center of Jesus' earthly ministry and most of his Apostles were Galileans.

8. True or False? Galilean Jews lived in a more diverse environment than their fellow Jews who lived in Judea, and so consequently they were not as zealous about their religion.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ was the headquarters of Jesus' Galilean \_\_\_\_\_ where he taught in the synagogue, performed many \_\_\_\_\_, and stayed at the hour of Peter. \_\_\_\_\_ was directly south of Galilee and it was inhabited by the \_\_\_\_\_ who the Jews saw as \_\_\_\_\_. While Jesus did not allow his \_\_\_\_\_ to preach to them, the Gospels reveal he was very \_\_\_\_\_ towards them.
10. What impressive building projects occurred during the reign of Herod the Great?

## Section 2 The Political Climate in First-Century Palestine (pp. 126 – 133)

11. Several political factors contributed to the rapid \_\_\_\_\_ of Christianity in the decades after the \_\_\_\_\_. The Empire was characterized by a \_\_\_\_\_ language, an elaborate system of \_\_\_\_\_, a strong military force and a just \_\_\_\_\_ system. There were workable \_\_\_\_\_ and communication systems and relative stability because it was the time of the \_\_\_\_\_.
12. In ways did Antiochus IV pose a threat to the Jews?
13. After the \_\_\_\_\_ Revolt against the Greeks, the \_\_\_\_\_ kings established an independent Jewish \_\_\_\_\_, the first in centuries. However, later \_\_\_\_\_ of the Hasmonean dynasty behaved much like the spoiled and \_\_\_\_\_ Hellenistic kings. They too were subject to \_\_\_\_\_ intrigue and adopted Greek \_\_\_\_\_. In 63 BC the Roman general \_\_\_\_\_ conquered Palestine.
14. True or False? While the Jews generally hated Herod the Great, he redeemed himself somewhat by the construction of a magnificent Palace in Jerusalem.
15. True or False? Herod Antipas, the son of Herod the Great, was deposed by the Romans who installed a "prefect," later called "procurator" named Pontius Pilate.
16. True or False? The main responsibilities of a Roman procurator were appointing the Jewish high priest, approve or deny death sentences, and to keep the peace.
17. What actions by Pontius Pilate outraged the Jews?

18. True or False? While slavery was somewhat common in the Roman Empire, the New Testament does not directly condemn the practice but, rather, speaks more broadly against the inequality of persons.

**Section 3 Jewish Beliefs and Practices in Jesus' Time** (pp. 134 – 144)

19. True or False? Many of the followers of Jesus, themselves Jews, first preached the Gospel to their fellow Jews, noting that Jesus was the fulfillment of YHWH's promises to the Jewish people.

20. What were the three main functions of the synagogue for Jews?

21. When the Jews typically go to the synagogue?

22. Synagogues were typically built in towns near \_\_\_\_\_ or springs so the worshippers could \_\_\_\_\_ themselves in running water. The congregation stood usually facing \_\_\_\_\_ and reciting various prayers including the \_\_\_\_\_, a confession of faith. The \_\_\_\_\_ was conducted by ordinary townsfolk. The reading of the \_\_\_\_\_, kept in a cabinet called the \_\_\_\_\_, was the central act of worship.

23. The Jerusalem \_\_\_\_\_ was the one and only temple for Jews because they believed that \_\_\_\_\_ dwelled in here in a special way. Only the \_\_\_\_\_ caste had a role in Temple worship and only they were permitted to offer the sacrifice of an \_\_\_\_\_ on a daily basis. Jewish law obligated Jewish \_\_\_\_\_ to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem on three major feasts: \_\_\_\_\_, Pentecost, and \_\_\_\_\_.

24. Identify the Jewish feast described below.

- This feast celebrated when God gave the Law to Moses and established the Sinai Covenant
- This feast recalled the wilderness journey of the Jews
- This feast celebrated the liberation of the Jews from the Egyptians
- This feast recalled the rededication of the Temple after it had been desecrated by a Seleucid ruler

25. What important ritual took place during the Feast of Passover? How is this feast connected to Jesus?

26. True or False? The Temple which Jesus would have known was the second Temple, rebuilt by King Solomon and greatly expanded and renovated by Herod the Great.
27. Since the reign of King \_\_\_\_\_ Jews believed in YHWH's promise to send a \_\_\_\_\_ who would represent his love and \_\_\_\_\_ for his people. Following the \_\_\_\_\_ Jewish expectation that the Messiah would bring \_\_\_\_\_ heightened, and by the \_\_\_\_\_ century AD, many Jews believed YHWH would send a messiah very \_\_\_\_\_.
28. Explain what Jews believed about the coming Messiah.
29. As a \_\_\_\_\_ people, the Jews believed YHWH had \_\_\_\_\_ them as his special people. He promised to bless, \_\_\_\_\_, and protect them. In \_\_\_\_\_ they were to recognize \_\_\_\_\_ as the one true God and to keep the \_\_\_\_\_, living its moral foundation. (\_\_\_\_\_ himself had profound respect for the Law.) Further, they believed God used them to lead \_\_\_\_\_ to worship of the one \_\_\_\_\_ God.
30. True or False? The Pharisees and Sadducees believed that if the Jews tried to live the Law perfectly, God would send a messiah to rescue them.
31. Explain Catholic belief about the final judgment and the resurrection of the dead.
32. Explain what Jews believed about of angels and demons.

#### Section 4 Jewish Sects Referenced in the New Testament (pp. 146 – 158)

33. True or False? Of the four Jewish sects, Jesus' beliefs and practices coincided most closely with the Essenes.
34. The Sadducees were theologically \_\_\_\_\_ Jews, accepting only the \_\_\_\_\_ as inspired Scripture and rejecting the \_\_\_\_\_ traditions and legal rulings of the \_\_\_\_\_ and Pharisees. Many were members of the \_\_\_\_\_. They did not believe in angels, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the dead, nor the immortality of the \_\_\_\_\_, and stressed human \_\_\_\_\_ and responsibility over trusting Divine Providence.

35. The Pharisees – from a term that means “\_\_\_\_\_” – originated when they separated themselves from the lax \_\_\_\_\_ practices during the Hasmonean \_\_\_\_\_. They believed in the resurrection of the body and divine \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ and the dead. In addition to the \_\_\_\_\_, they accepted the Prophets and the \_\_\_\_\_, as inspired.
36. True or False? While the religious devotions of the Pharisees inspired many and were very positive, Jesus denounced them because they thought they could “earn” heaven by maintaining all of their religious customs.
37. What circumstances caused a permanent separation between Jews and Jewish Christians?
38. True or False? The Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in 1947, were likely produced by community of Pharisees who lived near the northwest shore of the Dead Sea, who lived a celibate lifestyle, sharing goods in common, and practiced frequent ritual purifications.
39. The \_\_\_\_\_ were a Jewish apocalyptic group who believed God would usher in his \_\_\_\_\_ through a dramatic event. Consequently, they lived \_\_\_\_\_, pure lives, believing they would be on \_\_\_\_\_ side when the great day would come. Their founder taught that most \_\_\_\_\_ failed to live the Law and that the Jewish \_\_\_\_\_ and Temple worship were \_\_\_\_\_.
40. Most Jews hated any fellow Jews who served as tax collectors for the Romans. Explain.
41. True or False? When most Jews rejected the preaching of the Gospel by early Christian missionaries, many preachers turned their attention to converting the Gentiles. True.
42. True or False? The early debate concerning whether Gentile converts had to follow the whole Mosaic Law in order to become Christian resulted in a compromise: Gentile Christians had to accept some of the Jewish dietary laws and male circumcision was required.
43. List the ways women were treated as inferior to men in first-century Palestine.
44. True or False? Jesus’ attitude towards woman reflected general Jewish custom and tradition.

45. Jesus was born a \_\_\_\_\_ person and many of his followers were common \_\_\_\_\_ who lived their lives removed from the disputes of the major \_\_\_\_\_. Many tried to follow the Law, \_\_\_\_\_, and attend synagogue services. \_\_\_\_\_ were mockingly dubbed "people of the \_\_\_\_\_" by Pharisees who considered them \_\_\_\_\_ of the Law and therefore unable to achieve \_\_\_\_\_.

46. What were the beliefs and practices of the Jewish sect known as the Zealots?