



# *the* **IMPACT** *of* **PLACE**



*September 23 - October 4*  
[discovertheword.org](http://discovertheword.org)

**SUMMARY** | Holy Land expert Dr. John “Jack” Beck understands how culture and geography play a big part in interpreting Scriptures. In this series, Jack uses fascinating details of ancient society and the characteristics of the Middle Eastern countryside to relate biblical lessons that we might otherwise miss. These conversations will illustrate the intriguing connections between people, places, and events in both the Old and New Testament. Be part of the group as Dr. Jack Beck makes Bible geography meaningful in this series, “The Impact of Place.”

Check out Dr. Beck’s nine-episode video series, “The Holy Land: Connecting the Land With Its Stories” on the Our Daily Bread YouTube channel!

## This Week’s Discussion Questions

1. What are some distinguishing characteristics of the area(s) in which you grew up? Consider the geography, ethnic groups, language/accent distinctions, city/rural, etc. How might your story have been different had you grown up in a different place?
2. Read Genesis 12:1–3. What are the three sides of the “promise triangle” God made to Abraham? How does this triangle help us see the gospel in the Old Testament?
3. Read Numbers 20:1–12. Why did God ask Moses to speak to the rock to produce water (in the Wilderness of Zin), instead of striking it (as he had at Rephidim)? What was the bottom-line issue that kept Moses from entering the Promised Land?
4. What is the major question the story of Gideon (Judges 6–7) addresses? In what ways is it the same question we need to ask ourselves?
5. What have been your most significant “wilderness” times of life? How did those times change you? How did it affect those around you?

## Challenge

Dr. Jack Beck tells us that versions of the word land make it the second most-used word in the Bible. But when we read the Bible, it sounds like “it’s not from around here”! If you want to make Bible geography a lot more meaningful, check out Jack’s book *Discovery House Bible Atlas*. This easy-to-understand book brings you fascinating insights to enrich your understanding of the Bible and help you view the land as if it were your native country. Find it online at Our Daily Bread Publishing or Amazon.

## Commit To Memory

The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.  
“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you;  
I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.  
I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”  
(Genesis 12:1–3)

## Prayer

Lord, thank You for the promise that You’re with me in both good times and “wilderness” times. Please remind me and help me trust in the fact that You are enough and that I don’t need other gods.

Amen.

## Notes



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**SUMMARY** | Jesus was a teacher who often made the outdoors His classroom and the surrounding landscape a part of his lessons. The Lord recognized that people are always connected to the land around them. In the second part of his visit with Discover the Word team, Dr. John “Jack” Beck illustrates the fascinating connections between Old Testament people, places, and events, and the experiences of Jesus. We’ll explore those occasions where Jesus taught and performed miracles that were linked to a land steeped in spiritual history. Join us as Jack continues to make Bible geography meaningful in this series “The Impact of Place.”

Check out Dr. Beck’s nine-episode video series, “The Holy Land: Connecting the Land With Its Stories” on the Our Daily Bread YouTube channel!

## This Week’s Discussion Questions

1. Read Matthew 3:13-17. Do you have questions about why Jesus was baptized? How does geography provide insight into Jesus being baptized by John in the Jordan River?
2. How many places have you lived throughout your life? Which was your favorite? Why? Read Matthew 4:13. What were some reasons why Jesus’s move from Nazareth to Capernaum was so significant?
3. How does “geographic déjà vu” give power to the story of Jesus raising to life the son of the widow in Nain in Luke 7:11-17?
4. John 4:4 says Jesus “had to go through Samaria.” What are some reasons why He would have to go through that area? What is so significant about Jesus claiming to be Messiah in Sychar (Shechem)?
5. Read Matthew 16:13-18. How did Jesus use the geography of Caesarea Philippi to affirm his identity as God and to define the capability of his church?



## Challenge

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## Commit To Memory

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”  
Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”  
(Matthew 16:15-16)



## Prayer

Lord, I now understand more clearly how place impacts me and my story,  
and how place impacted the story the Bible tells.  
Help me to have an impact on my place for You.

Amen.

## Notes