

# KidsPrint



## TIME TRAVEL TO THE PAST

### EVER WONDER WHAT KIDS DID BACK IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES?

Did their feet get grimy walking down the dry, sandy roads? Did they stop at the Capernaum Corner Market for fish and chips? Did they have iScrolls to do their homework?

A lot of people have done a lot of research on New Testament life. Understanding what people did, what people ate and where people lived helps us better understand God's Word.

So here are some clues to life in New Testament times around the Sea of Galilee, which isn't really a sea at all, but a large lake. In fact, the Sea of Galilee is only two-thirds the size of Lake Tahoe, a lake on the California/Nevada border. (If you don't know how big Lake Tahoe is, check out a map.)

- Kids mostly lived in small villages since about 200 villages were located on the shores of the Sea of Galilee.
- Kids spoke Aramaic unless they lived in a bigger city; people in cities spoke Greek. Or maybe if they were super smart or had a dad who held an important job, they could speak both.
- Kids traveled to Jerusalem with their families to observe Passover or the Feast of Tabernacles. That was sort of like their vacation. They would spend some of the time taking part in the ceremonies, but also spent time shopping and visiting with family members who lived in town. (Later, after A.D. 70 when the temple was destroyed, they would've celebrated these observances locally rather than going to Jerusalem.)
- Their fathers and older brothers might go to the gymnasium for a workout and a bath. In fact, because so many men gathered there, their dads often conducted business while exercising. Sometimes the men would go to the stadium to see chariot races or wrestling matches.
- Kids were educated at home, but the boys might have attended school at a synagogue where they learned Old Testament Scripture and how to read Hebrew.
- Kids might go to a doctor if they got sick, but much was unknown and many illnesses that are easily cured today were not curable back then.
- Their families might have had a camel or donkey for travel.

So how do facts like these help you understand the Bible? For instance, knowing that many of the villages were located around the Sea of Galilee helps you understand why the Gospels include so many events and parables that focus on fishing. Fishing was a part of their lives. Fishing was how many of the men made their money (like two apostles in the Peter and John Fishing Company).

If you are interested in learning more, ask your parents to help you find the book *Manners and Customs in the Bible* by Victor H. Matthews. Your church library or even your public library might have it. This is an adult book, but it would be an interesting book to study with your family during your family Bible time or one-on-one with Dad and/or Mom.





**WHAT DO YOU CALL  
A GORILLA WITH A  
BANANA IN EACH EAR?**

Anything you want,  
he can't hear you.



**WHY DIDN'T THE CHICK  
CROSS THE ROAD?**

He was a little chicken.

**WHAT DO DOGS  
DO ON LAZY  
AFTERNOONS?**

Chase parked cars.

**WHAT VEHICLE  
IS SPELLED  
THE SAME  
BACKWARDS AND  
FORWARDS?**

Racecar.

**WHAT DO YOU  
SAY TO A  
SHEEP WHO IS  
CELEBRATING A  
BIRTHDAY?**

Happy Birthday  
to ewe.

## DID YOU KNOW?

In the middle ages, mastiffs were dressed in light armor to fight in battles.

The most popular dog breeds are Labrador Retriever, German Shepherd, Yorkshire Terrier, Beagle and Golden Retriever.

The largest dog on record is a 343 pound (156 kg) mastiff.

The most popular female dog names are Maggie, Mollie, Lady, Sadie and Lucy.

The most popular male dog names are Max, Jake, Buddy, Bally and Sam.

How many verses are you learning for Awana this week? Two? Four? Seven? Learn each one in a different location. For instance, learn one of them on the back porch. Learn another in the car. You could learn one

while you're setting the table for supper. Put the reference to the verse on a piece of paper in the spot where you learned it. For instance, if you're learning John 3:16 at the table, put a paper with the reference by your plate.

Associating the words and numbers with a particular place will help you memorize God's Word.

Psalm 1:2 — *But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in His law doth he meditate day and night.*

