

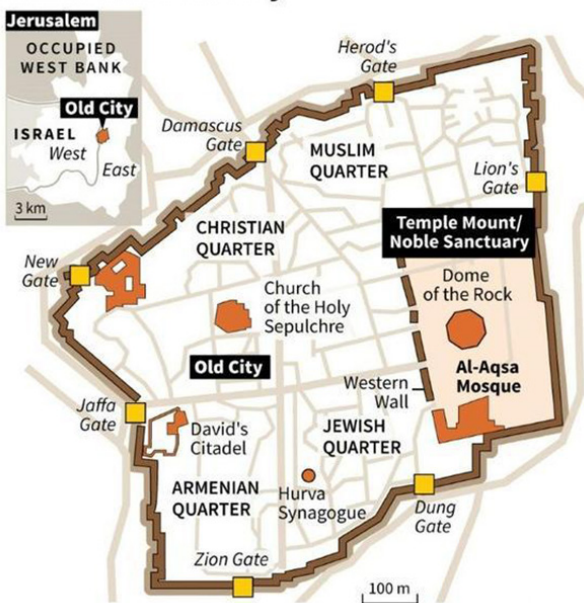
THE FOUR CIRCLES

A Spiritual Journey from the
Holy Land

CIRCLE THREE: JERUSALEM

And so the next circle gets smaller still. Twenty years after its independence and surrounded by many who oppose its very existence, Israel experiences another miracle. Jerusalem is recaptured by the Israeli Defense Forces after thousands of years of foreign rule. This ancient city is mentioned throughout Scripture, so let's learn more about it.

Jerusalem Old City



For further understanding

Jerusalem is called other names like Zion, the City of David, God's city, and His holy mountain:

- *David captured the fortress of Zion—which is the City of David. (2 Samuel 5:7)*
- *... bring up the ark of the LORD's covenant from Zion, the City of David. (1 Kings 8:1)*
- *"I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain." (Psalm 2:6)*
- *"Then you will know that I, the LORD your God, dwell in Zion, my holy hill. Jerusalem will be holy. . . ." (Joel 3:17)*
- *Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain. (Psalm 48:1)*
- *This is what the LORD says: "I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the Faithful City, and the mountain of the Lord Almighty will be called the Holy Mountain." (Zechariah 8:3)*

The Six-Day War: This conflict was fought June 5–10, 1967, between Israel and Egypt, Jordan, and Syria.

Israel defeated the opposing military forces and recaptured Jerusalem (see *quote next page*). A ceasefire was reached at the end of the six days, but Israel would go to war yet again six years later in the Yom Kippur War.

The third circle is a city

We'll look more at the specific holy mountain from the verses above in the next and final session. King David made Jerusalem the capital more than 3,000 years ago, but it has endured all manner of trouble in the millen-

nia since. For today, read Zechariah 12:1–9 and Revelation 21:1–4.

- Why was Jerusalem so important in the past, as recorded in the Bible? (Psalm 132:13)
- Why do you think Jerusalem might be important in the present? In the future? (Luke 21:24)
- What are some characteristics of the New Jerusalem mentioned in Revelation 21?

What about you?

Whether you believe Jerusalem is crucial or not, the Lord loves the people of this city just as He loves those in your city.

- Have you ever prayed for Jerusalem? (Psalm 122:6) Why or why not?
- Just as modern-day Jerusalem is harshly divided, your city is too. What can you do for the Lord in your Jerusalem, the place you live now?
- Paul said we are looking for the city that is to come (Hebrews 13:14). What do you think he means?

Things to pray for

- The peace of Jerusalem
- The peace of your hometown and salvation of those in your city
- God's role for you in your place of residence

Commander Motta Gur in 1967 to the soldiers in his brigade:

Endless words of longing have expressed the deep yearning for Jerusalem that beats within the Jewish heart . . . You have been given the great privilege of completing the circle, of returning to the nation its capital and its holy center . . . Jerusalem is yours forever.