

The Galilee

"By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined." Isaiah 9:1-2 (NKJV)

"If I had been alive at the time of Jesus, I would have followed him."
Mendel Nun (late expert on the Galilee's ancient fishing industry, 1918-2010)

Millions of tourists will have seen the 'Jesus boat' at Kibbutz Ginnosar, on the shores of the Sea of Galiee. The ancient vessel dates back to the 1st Century AD, and was discovered in 1986 by two brothers, fishermen from the kibbutz. While this was a tremendous archaeological find which became a magnet for tourists, there is a problem with the display at the Yigal Allon museum. Eminent and correct Israeli scholars, such as Professor David Flusser (of blessed memory) - who himself wrote the book 'Jesus' (showing the ancient script of עוֹשִׁי) are very open and aware of the historical name Yeshua, a proper name found in the Bible (I Chron 24:11; II Chron 31:15). From the word, ye-shu-ah, this name literally means 'salvation' or 'He will save' (Matthew 1:21). Unfortunately, many Israelis only know His name as 'Yeshu' a derogatory term from Talmudic times. And this false name is even on the walls of the Jesus Boat museum (unless this historical inaccuracy has now been rectified). So while tourists wouldn't even realise, as they read the English script, any local Israelis who visit the museum do not read about a Galilee Man named Salvation. So the home region of Yeshua needs prayer – and praise in His wonderful name.



On occasion, if you are blessed enough to be there, you might run into a group of rejoicing believers, singing on the shores, or on one of the tourist boats which are commonly seen on the Lake. Some groups even take communion on their boat. Tourism is the main income source around the Galilee, and so the devastation following October 7, 2023 hit hard, and most of the hotels became filled with displaced Israelis fleeing either Hezbollah rockets in the north, or Hamas rocket fire in the south, where many lost their homes when the terrorists attacked. One year after Israel and America's historic pre-emptive strike against Iran, on 8 June, 2026, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said that, as well as "thwarting the immediate threat of atomic bombs... with that same determination, we acted against Hezbollah as well [which] planned to invade the Galilee with thousands of terrorists, and at the same time, it planned to devastate Israel's cities with 150,000 missiles and rockets." https://www.gov.il/en/pages/statement-by-pm-netanyahu-8-jun-2026



Sea of Galilee: © 2026 James Chatham

While the Iranian-backed terror threat near the beloved Galilee is much weakened, many of Israel's finest young people have given their lives in defence of the land their ancestors transformed, by God's grace. Families need His comfort.

We are reminded of our scripture: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light".

Sources of Light

There are beautiful works of light happening all around the Sea of Galilee. There are places of prayer and retreat. There are places of action. And there are incredible archaeological finds (as always in Israel!) which are bringing people together. This past October, there was a wonderful academic conference at the Magdala Centre, in Migdal, a site dubbed the "Crossroads of Jewish and Christian history". The relatively recent excavations reveal a synagogue from the time of Jesus, in ancient Migdal, the home village of Mary Magdelene. Israeli Jews and Christians alike, have worked together to provide a centre for prayer. There is an mural in a cave-like prayer room, showing the woman with the issue of blood reaching out to touch the tassels (Heb. *tzitzi'ot*) on Rabbi Yeshua's *tallit* (prayer shawl; see Luke 8:44). What a special place to reflect! CFI teams have also been very active this year in travelling north to the Galilee area to meet with units of soldiers serving in Lebanon and fighting Hezbollah. Thanks to your kind donations, we are able to bless them with various supplies they need. Thanks to helmets delivered by CFI in April 2026 to Moshav Goren, soldiers who were seriously injured in a Hezbollah drone attack just one month later, thankfully survived the incident. For more information on any of the above projects, please see https://www.youtube.com/@CFIJerusalem- and https://www.facebook.com/CFIJerusalem/ .

Words from a Galilee resident

CFI spoke to some friends who have recently moved from the busy town of Tiberias, to a moshav (open agricultural community) in the Upper Galilee. They said, “It’s a very beautiful place, lots and lots of agriculture, orchards as far as the eye can see, all different kinds of fruit, just amazing really” the friends report. “It was established in the late 19th century and was connected to the Hula Valley and the Hula lake, which [the early pioneers] drained. There is a great sense of community, lots of things going on all of the time. They’re very good at organising things for the children and young people, and at including older people. We’ve been welcomed here and we’re very grateful. Pray we can be a blessing up here, to the people, and that we can really know that God has a purpose and a plan for us to be here. There are other believing families but not many; the nearest fellowship is very small.”

Praise and Prayer

Thank Yeshua for leaving the glory of Heaven for us, to come and bring His miraculous presence to the Galilee.

Pray for your own opportunity to stand in His home region, and lift up His name.

Praise God for bringing His light and comfort through His people and pray for those mentioned above.

Pray for fellowships (believers in Yeshua) around the Galilee, especially those whose meeting place was hit by a rocket, and for those ministering to the broken. Pray for the often tiny Messianic fellowships to be encouraged.

Pray in general for the lifting of the trauma after the many thousands of rockets fired by Lebanese terrorists, and also for all those injured after a direct Iranian missile hit in March 2026. Hundreds of homes were also damaged.

Pray for security along the northern borders of Israel, comprising the borders with Lebanon and Syria, and then even down through the borders with Jordan and finally with Egypt, and then the Mediterranean Sea. Pray for the interception of any and all threats, and that the Lord would keep the border forces of Israel safe, vigilant, and always at least one step ahead of any impending attacks.

Rivkah Levi, Wall of Prayer Team, Christian Friends of Israel – www.cfijerusalem.org/wall-of-prayer-1



ENCOUNTER - REPLICA ON CANVAS OF CHAPEL MURAL Painted by Daniel Cariola**: Photo CFI Media**