Research Ideas for the
Life and Times of Jesus

What was the geography of Palestine?

What were some of the main areas Jesus visited? What were they like?

What do places that were important for Jesus look like today?

What was housing like in Jesus’ day? How did housing for the wealthy differ from housing for poorer members of society?

What was the importance of the Temple in Jerusalem?

When and how did the Greeks influence Palestine?

When and how did the Romans influence Palestine?

What were the roles of men and women in Palestine at the time of Jesus?

What did the Jews of that time use for money, or did they barter?

What were different Jewish groups in Palestine? Did Jesus fall into one of these categories?

Who was “in” and who was “out” in Palestinian society and why?

What kinds of foods did people eat in Jesus’ time?

What other religions besides Judaism were practiced in Palestine in Jesus’ time?

What did men and women wear in Jesus’ time?

What languages were spoken in Palestine in Jesus’ time?

What was it like to get married as a Jewish person at the time of Jesus?

What kind of work was available for Jews in Jesus’ time?

What forms of transportation were available in Jesus’ time?

What forms of communication were available in Jesus’ time?

What were special customs that Jews of the times adhered to?

During Jesus’ time, who had power in Palestine and in what arenas?