

# INCLUDE ME OUT

## **A simulation game set in Palestine in AD 30.**

Each card represents a person. They also describe the character to be played and his/her situation and resources.

Attached to Each Card is a name badge and a voucher for a certain number of Shekels equal to each persons monthly income. (you could use monopoly money).

They are dealt out at random.

Each person has an objective printed on the card.

**Players assume the role of the person and interact appropriately with the other players. The game has three distinct stages.**

1. Different areas of the space represent, the North, the desert, the city, the Roman Governors Palace, and the Temple. You need to sort yourselves out in terms of a “geographical comfort zone”. Where do you belong?
2. Using the financial, social and religious resources they have been given each player tries to develop a strategy to achieve their objective. This may include moving out of your home zone to try to do deals or transactions with others.
3. The emperors commission on overcoming social exclusion is now taking evidence. You each have one minute to present your experience and personal recommendations. You may if you wish put this in writing, (if you can write, if you can afford the postage, and if you do not suffer from any communicable disease, or are not ritually unclean).

## **At the end we discuss:**

- how it felt in each role
- comparisons with social exclusion in the communities in which we live and work.
- What would an encounter with Jesus do for each person.

## NAME BADGES

<b>Zechariah the Priest</b>	<b>Antonius the centurion</b>	<b>Miriam (rich woman)</b>
<b>Benjamin the fish merchant</b>	<b>Pete the fisherman</b>	<b>Mary the prostitute</b>
<b>Hannah the widow</b>	<b>Simon the pharisee</b>	<b>Eusebius the governor's slave</b>
<b>Lazarus the leper</b>	<b>Zaccheus the tax collector</b>	<b>Pompous Pontius the governor</b>

### Name **Zechariah the Priest**

Status. Respected leader of the Jewish people. From one of the ancient and noble families

Job: Senior priest already on the Council and tipped as high priest

Wealth 50000 shekels + extensive land and property holdings

Networks: Knows well and is related to most of the other members of the Council. Has the ear of the governor, but is not trusted by the Romans

Religious Standing: Doesn't really believe in anything but sees advantage for himself and the nation in keeping a strong religious identity.

Objective: To make and keep money, status and power

Name **Antonius the centurion**

Status . Officer in the Army of Occupation

Job: Soldier mainly peace keeping these days.

Wealth: regular salary of 1000 Shekels (enough to keep his family and one servant in comfort). Plus possible perks, bribes and gifts from “generous” locals

Networks: Knows and respects the governor who used to be his C/O. Has got to know and like many of the local people but doesnt feel fully accepted by them. Best mates are all in the centurions mess.

Religious Standing: Does his duty by the Roman Gods, but growing interest in Jewish scriptures. Attends Synagogue from time to time but fears being cut off !

Objective: To retire and settle down in peace in this pleasant country.

Name **Miriam (rich woman)**

Status: Married (not very happily) to a rich local landowner who is often away from home, from an aristocratic family

Job: Managing a household which includes her own three children and 20 slaves

Wealth: Monthly personal allowance of 500 shekels, household monthly budget of 20,000. The family owns millions, but legally it belongs to her husband alone.

Networks: Her own father is close to the circle of priests, and her husband has regular business dealings with the Roman Army commander. She knows most of the leading women of the town through the Ladies Bathing Circle.

Religious Standing: A strong believer in God, and (surprisingly has read all the Jewish Scriptures. She believes the messiah is coming soon. However she cannot go inside the temple, or worship with the men in the synagogue

Objective: to be recognised as a human being, rather than an object by her husband to discover more about God

Name **Benjamin the fish merchant**

Status: Wealthy merchant, self made man who moved from a Northern Fishing village to the city when business started to flourish. Still talks with a strong accent.

Job: Importing fish from the North, and selling it in the market at a handsome profit. Also lends money to fishermen who are struggling to keep afloat.

Wealth: Started with nothing but now has an income of 200,000 shekels a year. Has bought a nice house and chariot but is still cautious about spending and lives of five fish sandwiches a day!

Networks: Knows all the fishermen up north, and most of the fish merchants, fast food shops and head cook slaves in the city. Tries to keep out of the way of all officials. Has just done a deal with a Roman centurion to supply fish to his company.

Religious Standing: No time for priests and the temple.. although has thought of diversifying into selling doves and lambs for sacrifices.

Objective: to become supplier of fish to the Governors household and generally make more money.

Name **Pete the fisherman**

Status: Oldest son of a respected extended family living in the North. Married with two children to support.

Job: self employed subsistence fisherman, in family firm.

Wealth: Owns a half share in a boat and the family home. Owes 10,000 shekels to a fish merchant from the time they renewed their nets. Struggling to feed the family since the price of fish fell by 30%.

Networks: Knows everyone in his home village, has a cousin in the city, and knows Benjamin the fish merchant, but wishes he didnt. Doesnt like Romans and still less their tax collectors.

Religious Standing: Honest, hard working (except on the Sabbath), tries to be a good Jew and goes to synagogue each week. Enjoys a good discussion on religion. Thanks God who seems to help him get by each day.

Objective: to clear his debts and have some financial stability. To catch a "whopper"

Name **Mary the prostitute**

Status: unattached woman of the night. Still attractive despite her rapidly advancing years

Job: the oldest profession, though she feels trapped by it sometimes

Wealth: No capital assets. Income varies. This week she has 1000 shekels in her purse but likely to blow it on clothes, hair-dos, perfumes or to help people in need.

Networks: Has “known” professionally most of the members of the Council and leading merchants. Would like to get inside the Roman governors private apartments at least once before she retires. She also knows lots of ordinary people, and many other women from backgrounds like herself.

Religious Standing: Often prays, but usually despised by the religious people

Objective: to achieve some dignity, financial stability and respectability before she gets old. Would happily marry and settle down if she could find a rich man who would make an honest woman of her.

Name **Hannah the widow**

Status: Alone in the world with no family support. Health failing with chronic arthritis

Job: Occasional day labouring jobs, otherwise begging.

Wealth: No assets. 100 shekels a month if she is lucky

Networks: Knows many ordinary people, including some of the fishermen from up north, and is a distant relative of one of the junior priests.

Religious Standing: As a woman shes not allowed to go inside the temple. But she does pray and trust God, and believes she should contribute to Gods work as she is able.

Objective: to survive

Name **Simon the Pharisee**

Status: respected elder in the synagogue and community. Head of a highly cultured family

Job: teacher / scribe and political activist.. able to live off a private income, supplemented by consultancy fees.

Wealth: Monthly income 5000 shekels. Owns land up north.

Networks: well connected with the priestly circle and political community among the Jews. Dislikes Romans and tries to avoid contact with them as much as possible..

Religious Standing: Takes the Bible seriously and tries to obey all the laws. Knows he is better than almost everyone around him. Has a few skeletons in the cupboard which no one except Mary the prostitute is aware of.

Objective: to keep his position of respectability and community leadership, and to work for the independence of the Jewish nation.. but without taking too many risks

Name **Lazurus the leper**

Status: leper living in the wilderness

Job: begging

Wealth: nil

Networks: family members daily leave food for him under a tree in a layby on the Jericho Road.

Otherwise only talks to other lepers

Religious Standing: Not allowed to go anywhere near temple, synagogue or priests. Cant believe God cares either, sees his disease as a punishment.

Objective: to be well again and accepted back by his family and neighbours

Name **Zaccheus the tax collector**

Status: Jewish friend of the Romans, inferiority complex about his lack of height, was it the result of bad habits in his youth?

Job: franchise to collect taxes, paid a % according to results.

Wealth: Substantial and increasing daily, accepting gifts in return for a promise not to charge higher rate VAT is a nice little earner. 8000 shekels a month. Owns a nice town house and employs three servants.

Networks: Close to the Roman authorities, but persona non grata among merchants, Pharisees and honest workers.

Religious Standing: Feels he ought to go to synagogue but knows he won't be welcome.

Objective: Since he'll never be respectable among his own people he'd best make enough money to secure a good pension and education for his kids.

Name **Pompous Pontius the governor**

Status: Roman aristocrat, in charge of the whole province

Job: Governor, judge and army commander

Wealth: Large estates in Italy, Salary of 50,000 shekels a month, plus use of palace and 50 personal slaves.

Networks: Direct line to and trust of the Roman Emperor. Can command anyone in the province to his presence at any time. Prefers to spend time with fellow army officers.

Religious Standing: Pragmatic if unbelieving homage to Roman Gods. (His wife is a bit suspicious though).

Objective: to keep the province under control, at peace, delivering high taxes to Rome in the hope he'll soon get promoted

Name **Eusebius the governor's slave**

Status: Slave..(phew at least not a eunuch!). Originally from a remote Greek speaking province, but very well educated.

Job: manager of the Governors private household

Wealth: Owns nothing, but commands a budget of 20,000 shekels a month

Networks: Has personal access to the governor and his family, does weekly deals with suppliers and merchants, knows all the top brass in the military, and the Jewish leaders who visit the palace on buisness.

Religious Standing: Does what he has to do in public but in private has dabbled in a number of mystery cults. Vague interest in Judaism but knows he could never be an insider.

Objective: Cant decide whether he would like to be free, or maximise his present position of influence.