

The Field School Survey Marginals (N=77)  
Sepphoris/Shikhin, Israel  
January 2016

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**Number of cases per item in parentheses; percentages by response category; means for numeric write-ins; top 3 text responses on repeated write-ins; “check all that apply” do not sum to 100 because respondents could choose multiple options**

1. During what season (or seasons) did you participate in Sepphoris/Shikhin excavations? (check all that apply) (77)

2009	12.4
2010	14.6
2011	7.6
2012	16.7
2013	22.0
2014	44.8
2015	34.2

2. Have you ever participated in other dig experiences? (77)

No	75.8	Yes	24.2
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3. If yes, how many other dig seasons at other sites? (write in number) (19)

Mean=8

4. If yes, where were your other dig experiences? (sites by country e.g. Bethsaida, Israel) (write in) (19)

Top 3: U.S. (10.7); Susita-Hipos Israel, Tel Kasish Israel (7.7); Yodefath Israel et al. (7.7)

5. What was your role during your time(s) at the Sepphoris/Shikhin excavation? (check all that apply) (77)

Undergraduate student	51.6
Graduate student	10.3
Volunteer	22.1
Staff	15.1

6. Did you receive academic credit for your participation on the dig? (77)

No	48.4	Yes	51.6
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7. What leadership role, if any, did you hold during the Sepphoris/Shikhin excavations? (check all that apply) (77)

No official leadership role	63.2
Assistant Area Supervisor	13.2
Area Supervisor	17.8
Other staff position	17.7

8. How long was your dig experience or the most recent experience, if more than one? (write in as number of days e.g. 20) (77)

Mean=19

9. Did you go with the group to Jerusalem on your most recent dig experience? (77)

No	41.6	Yes	58.4
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10. Were you part of the advance team or did you stay later with the group at the site on your most recent dig experience? (77)

No	71.9
Yes, I was part of the advance team	6.9
Yes, I stayed later with the group	7.9
Yes, I was part of the advance team AND I stayed later with the group.	13.3

11. How did you learn about the Sepphoris/Shikhin excavations? (check all that apply) (77)

From a volunteer	16.7
From Facebook or other social media	2.3
From a website of Samford University or other school	13.7
From a poster at Samford University	10.6
From a post-secondary (undergraduate or graduate) professor or advisor	29.7
Required field study for my degree	24.4
In a presentation at a school or professional meeting	10.8
In a presentation at a congregation or other church-related or religious organization	.9
Through a personal friendship with an excavation director or staff person	21.2
In digital or print news reports or feature stories	0.0
In scholarly articles or books	0.0
Through a site visit or other local source in the Galilee	1.8
Through the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA)	.9
Through the American Schools or Oriental Research (ASOR)	2.1
Through the Biblical Archaeology Society (BAS or BAR magazine)	5.3
Other (Write In)	

12. When you participated in your first dig experience, how many people did you already know? (write in number) (76)

Mean=7.6

13. How important were each of the following to you as motivations for going on the dig and as outcomes of the dig experience? If you participated in more than one dig, think of your most recent experience. Options: Not Important/Does not apply, Somewhat Important, Important, Essential

	<b>Pre Dig Motivation</b>			
	Not important/Does not apply	Somewhat Important	Important	Essential
To learn the archaeological excavation method (77)	11.3	11.5	40.9	36.3
To get in touch with my religious roots (77)	37.7	32.4	20.6	9.4
To learn another language (or to enhance my language skills) (77)	57.5	32.3	9.0	1.2
To “walk where Jesus walked” (77)	54.3	20.3	13.9	11.6
To get course credit (77)	44.9	13.4	18.6	23.1
To learn about Israel in the Hellenistic and Roman periods (77)	6.5	18.1	47.7	27.8
To learn archaeological recording method (77)	12.9	26.4	38.2	22.4
To meet new people (76)	26.1	38.8	26.5	8.7
To learn (more) about modern Jewish culture (77)	38.7	20.2	27.6	13.4
To get distance from the familiar and have freedom to experiment (77)	37.7	29.0	15.6	17.6
To build my resume (77)	55.6	21.1	13.7	9.5
To improve my health (77)	86.0	8.5	4.1	1.4
For romance (77)	98.6	0.0	1.4	0.0
To deepen my spirituality (77)	56.0	21.0	15.8	7.2

	<b>Pre Dig Motivation</b>			
	Not important/DNA	Somewhat Important	Important	Essential
To learn (more) about Arab culture (77)	47.9	21.0	24.4	6.7
To learn more about ancient arts and crafts such as pottery making (77)	15.4	38.6	35.3	10.7
To enjoy Mediterranean food and drink (77)	45.7	22.3	22.7	9.3
To engage in self-reflection (77)	55.5	17.0	19.9	7.6
To see the Holy Land (77)	32.9	19.1	30.5	17.5
To gain archaeological field experience in preparation for graduate study (77)	52.1	15.4	16.6	15.9
To go beyond tourism to meaningful volunteerism (77)	40.7	12.7	34.3	12.4
To build lasting relationships (77)	45.1	33.8	12.2	8.9
To be more open to and appreciative of cultural difference (77)	27.3	23.1	32.8	16.8
To contribute to archaeologically important discoveries (77)	5.7	24.0	46.6	23.7
To make history come alive (76)	11.1	24.9	36.9	27.1
To discover a deeper appreciation for my own history and culture (77)	30.6	23.7	35.5	10.2
To experience new things in retirement (77)	77.9	3.3	12.8	6.0
As an extension of my commitment to missions, service and/or evangelism (77)	77.3	15.2	6.5	.9

	<b>Pre Dig Motivation</b>			
	Not important/DNA	Somewhat Important	Important	Essential
To feel a sense of unity with others on the dig (77)	26.5	47.3	19.7	6.5
To learn about Islam (77)	53.9	26.7	16.2	3.3
To learn American archaeological excavation and recording methods (77)	35.4	28.3	29.2	7.1
For travel and adventure (77)	20.0	25.2	24.8	30.0
To gain archaeological experience because I hope to become an archaeologist myself (77)	58.4	24.9	6.6	10.1
Other (Write in)				

	<b>Post Dig Outcome</b>			
	Not important/DNA	Somewhat Important	Important	Essential
To learn the archaeological excavation method (67)	11.8	7.7	36.2	44.3
To get in touch with my religious roots (67)	36.9	30.0	21.2	11.9
To learn another language (or to enhance my language skills) (67)	62.1	22.4	13.9	1.6
To “walk where Jesus walked”(67)	55.8	14.6	18.3	11.2
To get course credit (67)	50.9	9.6	19.9	19.7
To learn about Israel in the Hellenistic and Roman periods (67)	3.6	15.4	44.5	36.5
To learn archaeological recording method (67)	11.8	19.7	35.1	33.4
To meet new people (66)	26.6	30.0	33.4	10.0

	<b>Post Dig Outcome</b>			
	Not important/DNA	Somewhat Important	Important	Essential
To learn (more) about modern Jewish culture (67)	34.6	18.2	34.2	12.9
To get distance from the familiar and have freedom to experiment (67)	41.4	23.8	17.9	16.9
To build my resume (67)	49.8	23.5	16.3	10.3
To improve my health (67)	83.9	9.3	4.7	2.1
For romance (67)	98.4	1.6	0.0	0.0
To deepen my spirituality (67)	57.0	15.9	18.3	8.9
To learn (more) about Arab culture (67)	42.1	19.5	27.8	10.7
To learn more about ancient arts and crafts such as pottery making (67)	6.0	31.0	45.6	17.3
To enjoy Mediterranean food and drink (67)	42.3	17.9	23.2	16.7
To engage in self-reflection (66)	55.3	12.4	20.8	11.5
To see the Holy Land (67)	33.3	16.1	30.4	20.2
To gain archaeological field experience in preparation for graduate study (67)	56.1	10.2	21.8	12.0
To go beyond tourism to meaningful volunteerism (67)	39.5	12.9	35.5	12.1
To build lasting relationships (67)	38.4	23.0	24.2	14.4
To be more open to and appreciative of cultural difference (67)	24.1	13.0	36.6	26.3

	<b>Post Dig Outcome</b>			
	Not important/DNA	Somewhat Important	Important	Essential
To contribute to archaeologically important discoveries (67)	3.0	25.0	52.4	19.6
To make history come alive (66)	8.8	19.7	39.7	31.8
To discover a deeper appreciation for my own history and culture (67)	28.3	25.0	34.4	12.3
To experience new things in retirement (67)	69.7	2.7	14.8	12.9
As an extension of my commitment to missions, service and/or evangelism (67)	78.9	13.4	6.7	1.1
To feel a sense of unity with others on the dig (67)	17.6	44.5	23.6	14.3
To learn about Islam (67)	49.1	21.7	27.0	2.2
To learn American archaeological excavation and recording methods (67)	25.7	30.6	26.9	16.8
For travel and adventure (67)	16.5	27.0	32.8	23.7
To gain archaeological experience because I hope to become an archaeologist myself (67)	58.4	20.9	15.1	5.5
Other (Write in)				

14. Below is a list of Sepphoris/Shikhin excavation activities. Tell us how often you participated in each and also how important each one was for your overall experience. If you participated in more than one dig, think of your most recent experience.

	<b>Time Spent</b>		
	None	Some	A lot
Square excavation (77)	6.5	14.9	78.5
Pottery washing, sifting, clearing brush and debris (76)	13.0	45.2	41.8
Helping to take measurements (76)	14.9	60.2	24.9
Helping to draw top plans (75)	56.9	27.6	15.5
Other Area book-related work (75)	52.8	24.3	22.9
Assisting with surveying (76)	50.5	42.3	7.2
Supervising others on the dig (75)	75.8	5.7	18.5
Group meals and breaks (76)	4.1	28.3	67.6
Pottery readings (76)	26.2	27.7	46.1
Lectures (76)	8.0	37.6	54.5
Kiddish (72)	38.3	23.1	38.6
Dig related tours of other archaeological sites (76)	29.4	27.6	43.0
Visiting area congregations while on the dig (76)	59.1	38.2	2.8
Exploring Nazareth while on the dig (76)	31.5	40.8	27.7
Traveling with other dig colleagues on our own (76)	33.8	46.7	19.5
Traveling alone (76)	62.5	27.6	9.9
Hanging out with other participants at dig-related hotel(s) (76)	31.9	36.9	31.2



	None	<b>Time Spent</b> Some	A lot
Interaction with dig participants of different ages (75)	0.0	47.0	53.0
Interaction with dig participants of races or ethnicities (76)	6.8	69.2	24.0
Trip to Jerusalem (76)	35.8	22.5	41.7
Dig-related reading (76)	22.7	57.2	20.1
Dig-related journaling (76)	51.6	32.7	15.8
Interaction with hotel staff or other locals (76)	30.8	44.0	25.2

	<b>Importance for Overall Experience</b>			
	Not Important/ Didn't Do	Somewhat Important	Important	Essential/ Couldn't Do Without
Square excavation (75)	5.7	9.7	31.7	53.0
Pottery washing, sifting, clearing brush and debris (75)	12.4	27.0	47.8	12.9
Helping to take measurements (75)	17.7	17.6	35.6	29.1
Helping to draw top plans (73)	45.2	12.0	22.8	19.9
Other Area book-related work (73)	43.9	12.5	25.4	18.2
Assisting with surveying (75)	46.1	21.2	22.5	10.3
Supervising others on the dig (71)	65.2	11.1	12.8	10.9
Group meals and breaks (75)	4.7	6.9	44.9	43.5
Pottery readings (75)	23.6	13.2	26.4	36.8
Lectures (75)	6.8	8.9	44.2	40.2

	<b>Importance for Overall Experience</b>			
	Not Important/ Didn't Do	Somewhat Important	Important	Essential/ Couldn't Do Without
Kiddish (70)	35.7	11.1	24.0	29.2
Dig related tours of other archaeological sites (75)	23.2	8.4	33.4	35.0
Visiting area congregations while on the dig (75)	58.9	15.9	19.6	5.6
Exploring Nazareth while on the dig (75)	26.5	16.6	33.7	23.2
Traveling with other dig colleagues on our own (75)	33.2	13.0	30.8	23.0
Traveling alone (75)	57.9	7.9	19.5	14.8
Hanging out with other participants at dig-related hotel(s) (75)	33.8	25.9	20.5	19.8
Interaction with dig participants of different ages (74)	1.0	34.6	33.5	30.9
Interaction with dig participants of races or ethnicities (75)	6.9	30.9	39.3	22.9
Trip to Jerusalem (75)	29.6	7.4	22.6	40.4
Dig-related reading (75)	20.7	15.3	40.8	23.2
Dig-related journaling (75)	47.6	19.5	29.3	3.6
Interaction with hotel staff or other locals (75)	30.2	18.5	24.1	27.2

15. Among the dig-related activities listed above, which one or two stand out as most critical to the quality of your dig experience(s)? (write in) (77)

Top 3: Square excavation and lectures (4.8); square excavation and breakfast (4.8); square excavation and dig-related tours of other archaeological sites (4.8)

16. On average, how many hours of sleep did you get each night during your most recent dig experience? (write in number, either whole or with decimals) (71)

Mean=6.3

17. Did you stay at the group hotel in Nazareth and/or Jerusalem during your most recent dig experience? (77)

No	29.6
Yes, In Nazareth	24.6
Yes, In Jerusalem	.9
Yes, In both	44.9

18. If you stayed in a group hotel, did you have a roommate? (53)

No	28.0	Yes	72.0
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19. Did you miss a day or more of the dig season during your most recent experience? (77)

No	73.1	Yes	26.9
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20. If yes, what was your reason for your absence? (Check all that apply) (7)

Illness or injury	9.0
Fatigue	1.8
Depression or homesickness	4.3
Conflict with others	0.0
Stayed up too late or partied too much the night before	2.3
Was not able to participate in the whole dig experience – missed days at the beginning of the dig, or at the end, or worked sporadically due to school, job, family or financial responsibilities	12.9
Other (write in)	

21. Did you volunteer for any added responsibilities while on the dig? (76)

No	46.8	Yes	53.2
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22. If yes, what were those responsibilities? (write in) (37)

Top 3: more experience (8.8); physically digging (8.8); area supervisor (5.6)

23. Please rate your overall satisfaction with your most recent dig experience. (76)

Very Dissatisfied	11.4
Somewhat Dissatisfied	2.8
Neutral or Unsure	1.4
Somewhat Satisfied	12.9
Very Satisfied	71.6

24. In what ways, if any, has your dig experience made a lasting impact on your thinking, attitudes and/or behavior? Please be as specific as possible. (write in) (69) Wide variety of lengthy responses

25. What kind of contact have you maintained with anyone you got to know on the dig(s)? (check all that apply)

No contact (66) 13.8

Social media connections including “liking,” sharing, or comments on posts (e.g. Facebook friend, Twitter follower, LinkedIn connection, etc.) (77) 68.4

Personal contact (writing, emailing, visiting, texting or calling) up to a year after the dig experience (77) 46.2

Personal contact (writing, emailing, visiting, texting or calling) beyond the first year (77) 34.8

26. People sometimes describe themselves as belonging to a working class, middle class or the upper or lower class. How would you describe yourself (or your family, if you do not live independently)? (73)

Upper class	2.9
Upper middle class	57.0
Lower middle class	28.8
Working class	11.3
Lower class	0.0

27. For each of the following, indicate how important it is in your life? (77)

	Very Important	Rather Important	Not Very Important	Not At All Important
Family	94.8	4.2	.9	0.0
Friends	68.3	27.3	4.4	0.0
Leisure time	32.2	53.2	13.2	1.4
Volunteer Activity	24.5	57.2	17.1	1.2
Politics	13.3	38.0	39.0	9.6
Work	43.7	47.0	6.5	2.8
Religion	43.8	18.2	17.9	20.1

28. How would you describe your social or political outlook? (77)

Predominantly conservative	8.1
Somewhat on the conservative side	15.2
Right in the middle	22.7
Somewhat on the liberal side	30.7
Predominantly liberal	23.3

29. Which of the following problems do you consider to be the most serious one for the world as whole? (77)

People living in poverty and need	31.8
Discrimination against girls and women	9.3
Poor sanitation and infectious disease	0.0
Inadequate education	22.9
Climate change	8.1
Overpopulation	5.6
Armed conflict and terrorism	22.4

30. Which one of the following comes closest to your views about religion? (75)

There is little truth in any religion	23.4
Many religions may be true	46.3
Only one religion is true	30.2

31. Is it okay for religious people to try to convert other people to their faith or should everyone leave everyone else alone? (74)

Okay to convert	40.7
Leave others alone	59.3

32. Do you think it is okay for someone of one religion to also practice other religions, or should people only practice one religion? (72)

Okay to practice other religions	61.1
Should only practice one faith	38.9

33. Some people say that they "are spiritual but not religious." How true or not would you say that is of you? (76)

Very true	17.9
Somewhat true	35.6
Not true at all	46.5

34. Do you believe in God? (76)

No	19.4	Unsure	14.0	Yes	66.6
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35. If no or unsure, was there ever a time in your life when you did believe in God? (25)

No	32.1	Yes	67.9
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36. If yes, which of the following views come closest to your own view of God? (50)

God is a personal being involved in the lives of people today	72.4
God created the world, but is NOT involved in the world now	2.1
God is not personal but something like a cosmic force	12.2
Other (Write in)	13.3

37. How often, if ever, do you read from the Scriptures to yourself alone? (77)

Never	23.2
Less than once a month	20.8
One to two times a month	12.2
About once a week	8.3
A few times a week	17.5
About once a day	16.7
Many times a day	1.2

38. How often, if ever, do you pray by yourself alone? (76)

Never	25.7
Less than once a month	12.9
One to two times a month	2.1
About once a week	6.7
A few times a week	10.7
About once a day	12.3
Many times a day	29.5

39. What is your present religious denomination, if any? Please be as specific as is possible. For example, if "Baptist" what particular group? "Southern," "American," "National," "Missionary," etc., or if "Jewish," please specify "Reform," "Conservative," "Orthodox," "non-practicing," etc. (write in) (77) Wide variety of responses, coded by denominational groups as specified

Jewish (not specified)	17.6
Jewish (secular, non-practicing)	13.9
Roman Catholic/Orthodox	7.3
Conservative Protestant	20.9
Moderate/Liberal Protestant	24.0
None/Atheist/Agnostic	16.2

40. How would you describe your church or synagogue attendance over the past year? (77)

Did not attend	26.3
Occasional (a few times)	21.8
About once a month	10.5
A couple of times a month	7.4
Weekly attendance	34.0

41. How many times, if any, have you ever participated in a mission trip or service project sponsored by a church, synagogue or other religious organization? (write in number) (76)

Mean=4.6

42. If you have participated in one or more mission trips or service projects sponsored by a church, synagogue or other religious organization, were they conducted in the country where you live, somewhere else or both? (76)

I have not participated in any mission trip or service project	51.4
In the country where I live	23.2
Somewhere else	5.5
Both	19.8

43. Are you a member of or a regular participant in a voluntary organization other than a church or synagogue, including social fraternities and sororities and/or political, educational, environmental, recreational, arts and culture or charitable organizations? (77)

No 55.7 Yes 44.3

44. If yes, how many? (write in) (77)

Mean=1.2

45. If yes, what kind? (check all that apply) (77)

Social fraternities or sororities	10.9
Political organizations	8.5
Organizations that support education	16.0
Environmental groups	8.4
Sports or other recreational groups	8.5
Social service or social justice organizations	14.1
Organizations that support healthcare or medical research	9.4
Organizations that support music or the arts	12.3
Civic groups	9.0
Other charitable organizations	19.8

46. In the past year, how much money did you contribute to a church or synagogue? (write in amount in whole U.S. dollars with no commas or decimals e.g. if \$1,000.75 write 1001) (73)

Mean=\$1,792.14

47. In the past year, how much money did you contribute to all other voluntary organizations, including political, educational, environmental, recreational, arts and culture or charitable organizations? (write in amount in whole U.S. dollars with no commas or decimals e.g. if \$1,000.75 write 1001) (74)

Mean=\$1,196.69

48. What is your gender? (77)

Female 51.9 Male 48.1

49. In what year were you born? (write in 4 digit number e.g. 1970) (77) converted to age by categories

18-25 23.2  
26-35 36.4  
36-50 9.6  
51-64 14.2  
65+ 16.6

50. In what country were you born? (write in) (77)

U.S.A 68.3  
Israel 26.7  
Australia 1.4  
China 2.3  
Nahariya 1.4

51. What is your race or ethnicity? (write in) (76)

American Caucasian 65.8  
American Hispanic 2.6  
Chinese 2.3  
Israeli Jewish 29.4

52. What is your highest level of education that you have completed? (77)

I have not completed Secondary education or High School 0.0  
Secondary education (High school or General Education Diploma) 14.9  
Undergraduate education (Post-Secondary College or University) 49.0  
Graduate education (Post-Secondary Masters or Doctorate) 36.1

53. Are you ordained, an ordained minister, or clergyperson? (76)

No 94.4 Yes 5.6

54. What is your current paid employment status? (76)

Full-time paid employment (30 hours a week or more) 45.1  
Part-time paid employment (less than 30 hours a week) 25.6  
Retired from full-time paid employment 13.5  
Stay at home parent, caregiver or homemaker 1.2  
Currently unemployed 14.6



55. If employed or retired, what is/was your occupation? (please specify) (53)

Top 3: Professor/Teacher (18.4); Service (12.1); Healthcare (11.6)

56. What is your marital status? (74)

Married	46.2
Civil or domestic partnership	0.0
Widowed	0.0
Divorced	4.8
Separated	0.0
Never Married	49.0
Other (write in)	

57. Do you have a child, children or other dependents living at home? (77)

I have a child, children or dependents living at home	11.8
I have a child/children but they do not live with me	29.0
I do not have children	59.2