

Recording highlights

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First-century housing in Galilean towns like Chorazin was based on the ‘insula’ model—a central courtyard with rooms for an extended family built around it, which provides critical context for several biblical stories.

- Key Insight: The ‘insula’ was a central courtyard with rooms added for new family units, often housing up to 100 people from a single extended family.
- Key Insight: This housing model illuminates biblical passages, such as friends breaking through a mud-and-thatch roof (Mark 2) and Jesus’s reference to preparing a ‘place’ (room) for his disciples (John 14).
- Key Insight: The traditional King James translation of John 14 as ‘many mansions’ is misleading; the Greek more accurately refers to ‘many rooms’ within the father’s single, large family complex (insula).
- Action Item: The group will proceed to the synagogue to discuss passages from Matthew 12 and Luke 4.