

Sermon Based Small Groups Study Questions

Instructions on Worship

[Matthew 1:1-17](#)

Start It: Connecting with each other

1. Have you or some one in your family ever mapped out your family tree? Was this important to you? How important is it to know your ancestry? Are there any 'oddities' or 'black sheep' in your ancestry?
2. Describe something that you have waited a very long time for (perhaps years) and then it finally happened? How did you feel when it did happen? Did you ever doubt it would?

Study It: Connecting with God's Word

1. Why was it important to Matthew and his readers to begin the entire story of the New Testament with a historical genealogy?
2. What is the significance of the threefold designation of Jesus in verse 1?
3. List the four mothers given in the genealogy. What is the story of each of them? Why were they included in this genealogy? Was it surprising that they were included?
4. What divisions did Matthew use to create the three sets of fourteen names? Why were these important?
5. Even though the third set of names are not recorded in Scripture, why is it not surprising that Matthew would know them?
6. How many kings names are listed? Which kings "did what is evil in the eyes of the LORD" and which "did what was right in the eyes of the LORD?" (cf. 1 Kings 11:6 to 2 Kings 22:2)

Live It: Apply the Truth of Scripture

1. How much of your faith is based on timeless principles and how much of it is rooted in history? Why is the later important? Do you view the great OT and NT saints as your spiritual fathers? How about the church fathers?
2. Consider some of the sinners in the genealogy. How does this help you understand God's providence, mercy and grace? Does the fact that God can use such flawed people to accomplish His will encourage you in your everyday walk with Christ? Does this encourage you to work in His Kingdom despite the fact you might not be 'perfect?' How does this knowledge help you to love and support your brothers and sisters in Christ even though they are not 'perfect?'
3. Note the total length of years from the promises given to Abraham until they are fulfilled in Jesus. Note too that for over 500 years (after the exile into Babylon) there was no one on the throne of David, yet through all that time God's purpose and will were being accomplished. How does this encourage you that God's promises for you are absolutely secure despite life's struggles and uncertainties?