

Jesus, part 4

Genealogy

Checklist:

- Copy of “Jesus’ Genealogy” sheet and pencil for each small group

Opening

Ask:

- Does anyone have anything interesting about your family heritage or have anyone famous in your family line? (what? who?)
- Do you get excited about the genealogies in the Bible? (why or why not?)

Say: Today we’re going to look at Jesus’ genealogy and hopefully you’ll see some interesting and important things...

Small Groups Explore Genealogies

Have teens get into small groups of 2-4 and give each group a Jesus’ Genealogy small group sheet. Give them 10 or so minutes to work on it in their groups.

Followup Discussion

Then bring everyone back together as a class and have volunteers take turns sharing their answers to the questions. Allow this to be a discussion where multiple students can add input.

Key points to be sure are discussed for Question 1:

- Matthew traces Jesus’ ancestry to Abraham and Luke traces it all the way back to Adam (or even God, in a sense).
- There is a different list in each from David to Jesus.

Key points to be sure are mentioned for Question 2:

- Perhaps Matthew gives Jesus' ancestry through Joseph and Luke through Mary. For instance, as one Gospel Harmony says, Heli could have been Mary's father and Jesus' grandfather and so Jesus would be the descendant of Heli, even though it was thought he was the son of Joseph. (*Thomas & Gundry - see reference below*)
- And it is possible that both lines could have had their own set of father and son with the same names of Shealtiel and Zerubbabel (*same Gospel Harmony mentioned this idea*)
- A reason for different numbers of generations from David to Jesus between the lists can be because some people's names were skipped - often "of" or "son" could refer to "grandson" or "descendant" and "father" or "begat" could refer to "grandfather" or "ancestor."

Key people and ideas to be sure are mentioned for Question 3:

- **Abraham** - God promised Abraham that all nations would be blessed through his seed. Jesus, Abraham's descendent, gives people who trust in Him, from all nations, the blessing of eternal life.
- **David** - God promised David that he would have an ongoing descendent to reign as king. Jesus, David's descendent, reigns as king over all God's people.
- **Also mention:** Jesus' family line helps show how Jesus is the promised Messiah.
- **Rahab** - a prostitute and Canaanite who hid the spies and whose family was spared when the city of Jericho was destroyed.
- **Ruth** - a Moabite who went home with her mother-in-law Naomi and said Naomi's God would be her God and then later married Boaz.
- **Wife of Uriah** - Bathsheba who committed adultery with David then later had Solomon

Ask: What could be significant for us to see about these women being part of Jesus' lineage?

(God allowed non-Jewish women and women who were sinful - as well as men who were sinful - to be part of Jesus' family line. And it's similar to how God, today, allows non-Jews and sinful people to be saved because of Jesus' death on the cross.)

Closing

Say:

- Today, we looked at verses about Jesus' family line.
- In a way, all those who've trusted Jesus as Savior have become part of God's family and have a "spiritual family line" through the people who have shared Jesus with them and those who share with them before that - all the way back to the twelve disciples.
- John 1:12 says, "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."
- Jesus died to pay for sin so people who have faith in Him can be accepted as God's children...

Ask:

- Can you think of an important “spiritual ancestor” in your life - someone that’s helped you know and follow Christ?
- How can you help be a “spiritual ancestor” to someone else?

Close in Prayer

Reference:

Matthew Henry, Commentary on Matthew 1:1-17, accessed 2/7/2019 via

https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/mhc/Mat/Mat_001.cfm?a=930001

“Family Histories,” *Youth Worker’s Idea Depot* on CD-ROM (Group Publishing).

Robert Thomas and Stanley Gundry, “Essay 9: The Genealogies in Matthew and Luke,” *The NIV Harmony of the Gospels* (HarperOne, 1988).

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Jesus' Genealogy

As a group, read over Matthew 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-38 to help answer these questions...

1. What are some similarities and differences you see?

2. How might you account for some of the differences?

3. Who are some people you recognize in the lineage and what's important about them?