



Sermon Growth Guide

November 28, 2021

Family of God – Family Tree

Matthew 1:1-17

Key Verse: Matthew 1:1

“This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham.”

Big Idea: Jesus breaks the barriers of genetics by inviting you into His family by faith.

Foundations

We don't preach genealogies much. It's just a list of names, right? But take a look at some of the people in the family line of Jesus: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – Rahab, Ruth and Boaz – David. Jesus isn't fairy tale. God entered into a real family line, into human history.

Jesus, fully God and fully man, was born into a bloodline, but He breaks down the barrier of genetics by declaring that the true and forever Family of God is the Family of Faith. We belong to God by faith! Just like Jesus' bloodline, the Family of Faith is comprised of the full range of human personality and circumstance. Our family tie is not through ethnicity or nationality or moral merit, but through our common thread of true faith.

You belong in God's family. Do you believe that? The Apostle John writes, “Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” To believe is to have faith. Through faith in Jesus, you and I become children of God, co-heirs with Christ.

Consider augmenting your group time this Advent using this year's Advent Devotional, which ties into our series on *The Family of God*. Blessings as you share your lives with one another and point one another to our true and eternal family.

Understanding God's Word

Together, read Matthew 1:1-17.

What can we learn from reading Matthew's genealogy? Why is it important that Jesus has a genealogy?

What do we learn in verse 17? Do you find significance in the given generational blocks (theocracy / prophets (14) > kings (14) > failure of the kings/nation (14) > Messiah)?

Applying God's Word

Jesus breaks the barriers of genetics by inviting you into His family by faith. This Advent, what practices can you implement in your own life (and with others in your household if applicable) to deepen your faith in Jesus? Help one another cultivate a heart of anticipatory joy this Advent. How can those in your Life Group be a helping hand to you this Advent?

Witnessing God's Word

John writes, “yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,” (John 1:12). Perhaps the most marvelous thing this Advent is you, as an ambassador and fellow family member of God, have the opportunity to help someone near you receive Christ this season. Discern together your next step of witnessing to the grace of God in Christ.