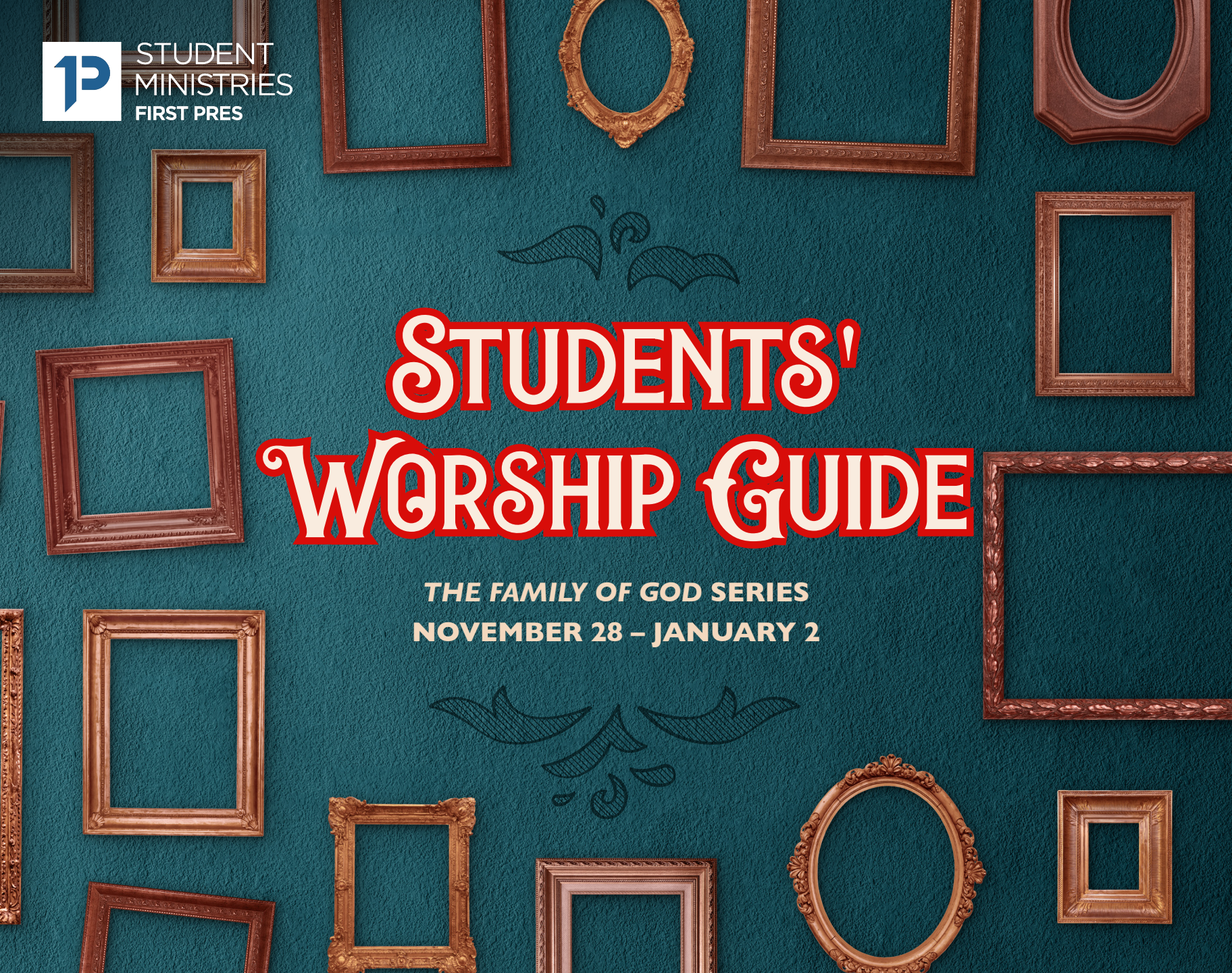




STUDENT  
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# STUDENTS' WORSHIP GUIDE

THE FAMILY OF GOD SERIES  
NOVEMBER 28 – JANUARY 2



**THIS WORSHIP GUIDE BELONGS TO:**

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# THE FAMILY of God

**Gathered around the infant Jesus are many different family members. Each one has a past. Each one a personality. Each one belongs in the Family of God. You have a place too.**



## MATTHEW 1:1-17

<sup>1</sup> This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

<sup>2</sup> Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

<sup>3</sup> Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram,

<sup>4</sup> Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon,

<sup>5</sup> Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,

Obed the father of Jesse, <sup>6</sup> and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,

<sup>7</sup> Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa,

<sup>8</sup> Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah,

<sup>9</sup> Uzziah the father of Jotham,

Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,

<sup>10</sup> Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon,

Amon the father of Josiah, <sup>11</sup> and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

<sup>12</sup> After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,

<sup>13</sup> Zerubbabel the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor,

<sup>14</sup> Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Elihud,

<sup>15</sup> Elihud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob,

<sup>16</sup> and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

<sup>17</sup> Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

*Why would Matthew start with the genealogy? Do you think this is boring? Do you think the readers of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> century thought this was boring?*

*What does it mean for our faith that Jesus comes directly from the same "family tree" as David and Abraham?*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Here we see all the generations of family that come through the line of David all the way up until Jesus. Matthew details this so that it can be made clear that Jesus can be traced back to David, and even Abraham way back in the Old Testament!

At some point in our individual walks of faith, it is natural for questions to come up as we mature and as time goes on. At the same time, Matthew makes it clear how Jesus is part of the direct lineage of some of the great heroes of the faith. When we stop to observe and recognize the generations that come before Jesus, we realize how detailed and faithful God is to enter our world in human form the exact and specific way that He did.

– Colin Magnusson

## ICEBREAKERS:

What is one of your favorite holiday memories with a family member or a loved one?

Would you rather live 100 years in the past or 100 years in the future?

## PRAYER NOTES:

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## LUKE 3:1-6

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar— when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Tracōnitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— <sup>2</sup> during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup> As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill made low.  
The crooked roads shall become straight,  
the rough ways smooth.

<sup>6</sup> And all people will see God’s salvation.”

*The message John was getting across in Biblical times is the same one we ought to be living into today!*

*How do these words in the book of Isaiah connect to the way in which God’s plan unfolds throughout the reading of the Four Gospels?*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Similar to Moses and similar to the prophetic voice in Isaiah 40, John challenges God's people to see the wilderness as a place not of trouble, but of hope. God is calling them to leave their struggles behind and head home through the wilderness. God is calling them to walk into His promise. John preaches that the first step on this journey toward freedom is repentance.

**I am reminded of how this is not some fictional story. Readers would know these names or could verify them. Luke is emphasizing the factual context for his presentation of the gospel. This quote from Isaiah provides the prophetic basis for John's story. It tells us that this is all part of God's sovereign plan.**

– Jeff Freyschlag

## ICEBREAKERS:

What movie do you wish you could watch again for the first time?

If you were famous, what would you be famous for?

## PRAYER NOTES:

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## MATTHEW 2:13-23

<sup>13</sup> When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

<sup>14</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, <sup>15</sup> where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

<sup>16</sup> When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. <sup>17</sup> Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

<sup>18</sup> “A voice is heard in Ramah,  
weeping and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children  
and refusing to be comforted,  
because they are no more.”

<sup>19</sup> After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt <sup>20</sup> and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”

<sup>21</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

*How does knowing that this that was predicted to happen in the Old Testament increase our faith in the present day?*

*Matthew alludes to a similar story in the Old Testament. What does this mean to readers like us? Why is this important?*



## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Some of the primary people in this passage are priests and teachers. Earlier in this chapter, priests and teachers in Jerusalem referenced back to something that was said back in the Old Testament. In the book of Micah, it is mentioned that an unexpected person will come to rule not by power, but by the strength of the Lord. This was confusing for many people at the time. In this time period, many pictured a ruler to be someone who used force and power to get what they want. Jesus comes in and does the opposite, ruling with compassion and servanthood.

**Moments from our own lives can bring meaning to this passage. In Psalm 46, it reads, “Be still, and know that I am God.” Be open to what He is trying to tell you. The circumstances that Joseph faced in our passage for today helps us to see that God can and will direct things in our lives if we listen to what He wants us to hear.**

– Dave Patton

## ICEBREAKERS:

What would it take to give up your smartphone for a month?

What is your future dream job?

## PRAYER NOTES:

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## LUKE 1:26-38

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail."

<sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

*The angel Gabriel gave a lot of information to Mary; what does this mean to Mary and to us?*

*Why would Gabriel mention Elizabeth's pregnancy? How will this benefit Mary and the story of Jesus?*



## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The Gospel of Luke was written by the physician Luke who traveled with Paul in Acts. Luke does a deep dive in investigating the stories of Jesus through doing surveys to people who might have encountered Jesus. With the information that Luke gathered, he wrote the gospel to answer some of the questions Theophilus had. Luke hopes to affirm that Theophilus and others who believe in Jesus Christ are living the gospel in truth according to what the disciples have been teaching.

**When God calls us to do something that seems so impossible or too big for us to handle, it is our human response to question or think we may know better. But we know from verse 37 that no word from God will ever fail. God does not make mistakes, lead us astray, or ask us to handle something without Him. He created us as fragile beings designed to lean on Him with anything that comes in our path. My prayer is that we too can be like Mary and boldly say, "Lord, I am your servant. I will follow the call you have for my life."**

– Elizabeth Aikens

## ICEBREAKERS:

What is the strangest food you have tried? Would you eat it again?

What is your earliest memory of Christmas?

## PRAYER NOTES:

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## MATTHEW 2: 1-12

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup> “‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people, Israel.’

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

*Why is King Herod and all of Jerusalem disturbed? What are the implications King Herod is realizing?*

*By Herod saying he will bow down to worship Jesus, what is Herod trying to tell us? Did he realize that Jesus is the true King of Israel?*



## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

In the book of Matthew, the king at the time in Judea was a man named Herod. However, God intended for the king in this time period to be someone who comes from the lineage of King David. After a long wait, the Gentiles visited Judea to worship the newborn Messiah. The magi represent all the nations who would come to worship Jesus and experience the glory of God.

## ICEBREAKERS:

Who is your favorite Disney character?

What is one goal that you hope to accomplish in the year 2022?

Have you ever seen an ancient movie where the king hears about someone who is to take their empire and panics? They try everything in their power to stop this person who will take over the empire but they know they will need to duel them. At the end there are two ways this story can end. That is how Herod thinks this situation will end. He tries everything in his power to stop this person who will take his empire. However, Jesus does not have to duel anybody to be the King. Jesus is King by doing it another way, by submitting to the Father to the point of death.

– Marcos Henry

## PRAYER NOTES:

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