



ADVENT

Discipleship Guide



Introduction	3
The Lord's Genealogy	4
Jesus: The True Israel	5
Advent	8
Study Resources	9
Celebrate Christmas!	10
Week 1: Matt. 1:1-2; Gen. 17; Gal. 3	11
Week 2: Matt. 1:5; Josh. 2; Heb. 11:31	15
Week 3: Matt. 1:5; Ruth 1	19
Week 4: Matt. 1:18-25	23
Week 5: Matt. 1:3; Gen. 38	27



Introduction

Every family has a story; His changes everything. This series focuses on Matthew's presentation of the Lord's genealogy in the first chapter of his Gospel. This first chapter of the New Testament is a rich revelation of God's faithfulness, the sovereignty of grace, and the centrality of Christ in redemptive history. A study of the Lord's family tree shows clearly that He came *from sinners for sinners*.

Each week, we'll draw on key figures in this genealogy to see how God's grace was manifested throughout biblical history, culminating in the incarnation of Jesus.

The Lord's Genealogy

Matthew begins his Gospel by immediately connecting Jesus to the entire biblical story. How? Through a carefully-crafted genealogy. Here are some key points about this genealogy:

1. Matthew connects Jesus to two key Old Testament figures: David and Abraham. Since Jesus descends from David, He is the rightful King of God's people (see 2 Sam. 7). Since Jesus descends from Abraham, He is a true Jew, and the one through whom God will fulfill His promises in Genesis 3:15, 12:1-3, 15:1-6, 17:1-8 and across the pages of the Old Testament.
2. Matthew organizes this genealogy into three groups of fourteen generations, which was his way of communicating that the time of fulfillment, the dawn of the age of the Messiah and the new creation, has begun in Jesus.
3. Matthew traces Jesus's ancestry through the royal lineage of Judah, further identifying Him as the true King (see Gen. 49:10). Jesus will upend people's expectations throughout His ministry, but this doesn't change the fact that He is God's long-promised King.



Jesus: The True Israel

Careful Bible readers will notice that, in Chapter 1 of his Gospel, Matthew traces Jesus's lineage back to Abraham, whereas Luke traces it all the way back to Adam (Luke 3:38). Why does Matthew stop at Abraham? This detail helps us understand Matthew's purpose in writing his Gospel: he wants his readers to know and trust that Jesus, the crucified, risen, and authoritative Lord, truly is the long-awaited Savior and divine King of Israel. And who was the "father" from whom the nation of Israel came? Abraham.

But Matthew's purposes go even deeper. Throughout his account of Jesus's life, death, and resurrection, Matthew shows his readers that Jesus isn't just the long-awaited King of Israel; He *is* Israel. Jesus is the true, perfectly obedient Israel:

Israel, collectively, was a son of God; Jesus is the Son.

In Exodus 4:22, we're told that God considered Israel, collectively, His "son." Later in biblical history, the prophet Hosea also refers to Israel as God's son, writing, "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son." Matthew then quotes this same passage and



applies it to Jesus (Matt. 2:15). Later in his Gospel, Matthew records the words the Father spoke about Jesus at His baptism: “This is my beloved Son” (Matt. 3:17).

Israel’s “baptism” foreshadowed Jesus’s baptism.

After freeing Israel from slavery, God brought them through the Red Sea untouched by their enemies (Ex. 14). The Apostle Paul refers to this miraculous event as Israel’s baptism (1 Cor. 10:1). Matthew arranges his Gospel in such a way that, after Jesus is “brought out of Egypt” in Chapter 2, He’s baptized in water in Chapter 3. The perfect Son of God, the true Israel, has passed through water and is ready to enter the wilderness, just as Israel had done.

Israel’s wilderness failures anticipated Jesus’s perfect victory.

After His baptism, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness, the same place that marked so many of Israel’s failures, sins, and disobedience. But in Matthew 4, we read about Jesus, the true Israel, victoriously overcoming the true enemy of God after fasting for 40 days and nights (a time period which mirrors Israel’s 40 years in the wilderness due to their sin). And how does Jesus



overcome the devil? With the Word of God, specifically by quoting from the Old Testament book Deuteronomy, which was given to Israel during their wilderness wandering. Where Israel collectively failed, Jesus perfectly succeeds.

Israel's Law and mediator revealed the need for a better covenant and Mediator.

How was Israel governed and led in the wilderness and beyond? Moses ascended Mount Sinai as the nation's mediator and received the Law, which served as Israel's covenant document. There were blessings promised for obedience and curses for disobedience. Israel sinned at every turn, but God continued to preserve a remnant from whom He would bring a new Mediator and a new covenant. So, in Matthew 5, after Jesus successfully overcame the evil one, He ascended a mountain and delivered the Sermon on the Mount, showing how He governs and leads the citizens of His kingdom. Through His perfect obedience, Jesus secures for all who trust Him the promised blessing, while bearing the curse on the cross. Jesus is the truly faithful priest and king, succeeding where everyone else had failed and sinned, ultimately securing a covenant with God in His resurrection and ascension.



Advent

The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship writes that Advent “is designed to cultivate our awareness of God’s actions—past, present, and future” because, throughout this season, God’s people “heighten our anticipation for the ultimate fulfillment of all Old Testament promises, when the wolf will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away.”¹

We live in a time of unprecedented distraction and entertainment. We succumb to the lie that the world is at our fingertips, rarely looking up from our phones to see and experience the reality around us. This has dulled our fear of the Lord and helped us be bored with the staggering beauty of Christ crucified, resurrected, and ascended.

If we rightly approach Advent—intentionally focusing on the infinite God becoming a man in Jesus of Nazareth—we might once again start on the journey toward genuine awe of the triune God.

¹ *The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition*, page 427.



Study Resources

If you're someone who loves serious Bible study, we recommend the following books on the Gospel of Matthew:

[Matthew](#) by R.T. France (Introductory)

[Matthew](#) by R.T. France (Scholarly)

[Matthew](#) by J.C. Ryle

[Matthew](#) by Grant Osborne

If you're looking for some free and reliable resources for studying, check out the links below:

[Introduction to the Gospels and Acts](#)

[Matthew](#) (free commentary)

[Introduction to Matthew](#) (free course)



Celebrate Christmas!

Boise: Dec. 24th @ 6pm

Address: 8775 Ustick Rd., Boise, ID

Carson City: Dec. 21st @ 8:30am & 10am

Address: 504 Bath St., Carson City, NV (Fritsch Elementary)

Downtown Sparks: Dec. 21st @ 9am & 10:30am

Address: 201 Lincoln Way, Sparks, NV (Lincoln Park Elementary)

Elko: Dec. 14th @ 4pm & 6pm

Address: Elko Performing Arts Building (651 13th St., Elko, NV)

Fernley: Dec. 21st @ 9am & 11am;

Dec. 24th @ 6pm

Address: 868 Cottonwood Ln., Fernley, NV

North Valleys: Dec. 21st @ 4pm & 6pm

Address: 210 Silver Lake Rd., Reno, NV

Reno: Dec. 23rd @ 6pm; Dec. 24th @ 3pm & 5pm

Address: 445 South Virginia St.

South Reno: Dec. 20th @ 4:30 & 6pm;

Dec. 21st, 8, 9:30, 11am

Address: 95 Foothill Rd., Reno, NV

Spanish Springs: Dec. 23rd @ 7pm

Address: 1065 Eagle Canyon Dr., Sparks, NV (Spanish Springs High)

Winnemucca: Dec. 21st @ 9am & 11am

Address: 403 Hanson St., Winnemucca, NV



Week 1: Matt. 1:1-2; Gen. 17; Gal. 3

MAIN POINT

God made a seemingly impossible promise to an old man named Abraham. That promise was fulfilled in Jesus. Our ancient faith has modern meaning; God knows our doubt and skepticism and, in grace, covers us.

GROUP INTRO

You can only pick one of the following Christmas movies; which one do you pick, and why? Home Alone, Elf, A Christmas Story, or Christmas Vacation?

TEXT

1. Read Genesis 17:1-8, 15-19, then read Matthew 1:1-2. How does Genesis 17 reveal God's power and grace, as well as Abraham's faith and weakness?

Leader help: Before even promising that Abraham would have a son, God reveals Himself as "El Shaddai" or "God Almighty," showing that He loves to reassure sinners, even when He knows they'll be skeptical about His promises. The author shows Abraham's faith by noting that he fell on his face in God's presence, then reveals his weakness by stating his age (99), reporting that his first response to God was laughter and skepticism (v. 17), and recording his prayer about his other son, Ishmael (v. 18).



2. Despite Abraham's skepticism, God fulfills His covenant promise by sending Jesus, through whom He brings blessings to people all over the world. Read Galatians 3:1-9. How does someone receive the blessing God promised to Abraham, and what is this blessing?

Leader help: By faith alone in Jesus. Paul writes in Galatians that Jesus was "publicly portrayed as crucified" to them, meaning that the gospel was proclaimed to them, and they believed in Jesus as a result. Then, by faith in Jesus, they received the Spirit, not because they had earned God's blessing through obedience, but because God had long ago graciously promised to bless Abraham's offspring. Paul argues that Jesus is the offspring, and all who trust Him are united to Him and therefore recipients of the promised blessing.

The blessing could be summarized as "adoption." It includes being declared righteous by God, being free from God's curse, receiving the Holy Spirit who empowers and comforts believers, and being given the status of "heir," meaning that all who trust Jesus are now God's children and can call on Him as "Abba," and will receive all that Jesus earned through His perfect life and sacrificial death.

- 
3. By highlighting Abraham in Jesus's genealogy, Matthew is helping his readers see Jesus as the fulfillment of God's covenant. Using Genesis 17:4-8, how would you describe the covenant that Jesus fulfills?

Leader help: Remembering what Paul writes in Galatians 3 about the "offspring" being Jesus, we will recognize that the covenant Jesus fulfills is unilateral, meaning that it's God who commits to bringing about the promises (He repeatedly says "I will..." in these verses); the covenant is eternal/everlasting, meaning that the blessing God promises isn't limited by time or human disobedience because Jesus fulfills the demands to "walk before" God and "be blameless"; the covenant is personal and global, meaning that God promises to be involved and active in the lives of His people; the covenant promises all of God's children the eternal Promised Land, which will be fulfilled in the new creation after the return of Jesus.²

APPLICATION

1. How can God's gracious persistence with Abraham encourage you when your faith or obedience feels weak?

² The land of Canaan is considered a "type" in biblical theology. The Promised Land was a real gift from God to His people. Still, this land pointed to something far greater (the new creation/the entire world once it's been renewed by God), which is given as a gracious gift to all who trust in Jesus. This is why Paul says in Romans 4:13 that Abraham and his offspring will be "heir of the world." So, even though Israel forfeited the Promised Land in history through their disobedience, God's promise still stands, because Jesus is the true Israel who obeyed on our behalf, securing the new creation, which is the ultimate Promised Land, for us.

- 
2. Since Jesus perfectly fulfilled the command to “walk before God and be blameless,” how can you rest in His righteousness this week, while also pursuing holiness with gratitude?
 3. Jude 1 says this: “You, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on those who doubt.” Would you say you’re doing well with this? What are some ways to “keep ourselves in the love of God” and have mercy on those who doubt?

PRAYER

Thank God that He responds to your weakness and skepticism with grace.

Passage to guide your prayers: 2 Corinthians 12:9

Confess the ways you’ve trusted your strength, not God’s grace.

Passage to guide your prayers: Galatians 3:2-3

Ask God to deepen your trust in Christ’s covenant fulfillment and obedience.

Passage to guide your prayers: Romans 8:32



Week 2: Matt. 1:5; Josh. 2; Heb. 11:31

MAIN POINT

Rahab was a prostitute and a foreigner, yet by faith alone she became part of God's people and Jesus's family. Your past doesn't disqualify you from grace; it's why grace exists.

GROUP INTRO

Who in your family or past made Christmas feel magical for you, and how'd they do this?

TEXT

1. Read Matthew 1:1-6, then read Joshua 2:1-16.
Who was Rahab, and how do we know that she trusted in the God of Israel?

Leader help: Rahab was a Gentile (non-Jewish) prostitute who lived in the wall that surrounded Jericho. Unexpectedly, God spares her from His justice, which He brought to Jericho, because of her faith. We know she had faith because, at significant personal risk, she sided with the God of Israel, believed the reports about Him, and viewed the land of Canaan as God's gift to His people. She even calls God, "God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath."

- 
2. Looking again at Joshua 2, how did God advance His covenant promises through Rahab's actions despite her status as a sinful foreigner, and why did God delight to do this?

Leader help: God spared the spies sent to report on the city of Jericho, thereby giving His people confidence before they entered Canaan, which was the Promised Land. This was a demonstration to His people that He was, in fact, with them. It was in the Promised Land that God would raise a line of kings, especially David and Solomon, through whom He would eventually bring Jesus. Canaan was also the place where the temple was established and sacrifices were made, both of which pointed forward to Jesus. Additionally, God upholds Rahab as an example of faith throughout Scripture, revealing His grace for even the so-called "worst" sinners.

God loves giving grace to sinners because it reveals how amazing He is and demonstrates why He's worthy of worship, which draws us deeper into communion with Him.

3. God didn't just work through Rahab to advance His covenant promises; He sought her out in grace. Read Hebrews 11:1-2, 30-31, 39-40. How does the legacy of Rahab reveal God's grace?

Leader help: By faith, Rahab not only escaped God's justice, she was redeemed from her sinful life and given a place of prominence in God's kingdom. She's mentioned not only in Hebrews 11 as an example of faith, but also in James 2:25. So, despite her life as a prostitute and her status as a foreigner outside of God's covenant with Israel, God graciously sought her out and gave her the honor of being a part of His Son's genealogy, through whom He saved her.



APPLICATION

1. God's grace in Christ is at the heart of the Bible, and is evident from Genesis to Revelation. Why, then, do you think Christians have an ongoing struggle with self-righteous, legalistic, or moralistic ways of reading the Bible? How do we combat this?
2. Rather than shun, exclude, reject, or ignore Rahab, God sought her out, saved her, and gave her honor. What will it take for our Community Group and our church to do likewise for those we know who are outside of Christ?
3. The Apostle Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians that, no matter what our past, if we've come to Christ, our slate is clean: "...You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."³ What in your life has you questioning this or needing some assurance and affirmation from others?

³ 1 Cor. 6:11.



PRAYER

Praise God for His pursuit of you when you were dead in your sin.

Passage to guide your prayers: Ephesians 2:4-9

Confess your lack of love for those you've deemed too far gone for God's grace.

Passage to guide your prayers: Luke 18:9-14

Ask God to root you in the reality that He has thoroughly and invincibly cleansed you, permanently, through His Son.

Passage to guide your prayers: 1 Corinthians 6:11

Week 3: Matt. 1:5; Ruth 1

MAIN POINT

Ruth was a Moabite widow, an outsider in every way, but God brought her into the lineage of the Messiah. Jesus came to break down walls and welcome outsiders into the family of God, including those we'd rather exclude. In Christ, no one is too far, too foreign, or too forgotten.

GROUP INTRO

If you had to ban one Christmas tradition, which one's getting canceled?

TEXT

1. Read Matthew 1:1-6, then read Deuteronomy 23:3-6, Judges 21:25, and Ruth 1:1-17. Why is Ruth's presence in the Messiah's genealogy unexpected?

Leader help: Several reasons: 1. Ruth was a Moabite, a group whom God explicitly forbade from entering the assembly/gatherings of His people (Deut. 23:3). 2. God involved Ruth in the outworking of His covenant during a time of unprecedented sinfulness in Israel (Judges 21:25; Ruth 1:1). 3. Ruth was a widow, which would have made her incredibly vulnerable in ancient times. The fact that she lived long enough (during a famine) to meet Boaz shows God's unexpected grace. 4. Despite living in Moab and experiencing incredible loss/hardship, Ruth trusts God.

- 
2. One of the most important roles the book of Ruth plays is in establishing the lineage of King David, while also revealing God's sovereign grace. Read Ruth 4:13-22. How do these verses reveal God's grace toward the outsider Ruth, and to us today?

Leader help: Ruth may have been unable to bear children, a devastating emotional and economic reality for Ruth, especially in light of her husband's death. Despite being a Moabite, God meets Ruth in grace and enables her to have children. Throughout Scripture, the gift of children to the barren is evidence of God's sovereign power and grace (see Gen. 11:30, 21:1; 25:21; 30:22; 1 Sam. 1:19-20; Luke 1:7; Matt. 1:20).

Because God gave Ruth a child, the lineage that eventually culminated in Jesus was preserved. Through Jesus, God's grace is poured out to all who trust in Him.

3. Read Ruth 4:18-21, then read Matthew 1:3-6. Matthew records the same genealogy, but what differences do you notice, and what do Matthew's additions tell us about God?

Leader help: God was always interested in graciously saving sinners from across the world through His Son, Jesus, not David. Ruth culminates in the mention of David, who becomes Israel's greatest king, but this genealogy also points forward to the Son of David, Jesus. By adding the names of three women (Tamar, Rahab, and Ruth), Matthew reveals that God's been at work throughout history to bring salvation to sinners through Jesus. Along the way, God chose the most unlikely sinners to be part of His plan.



APPLICATION

1. Some barriers to our evangelism and obedience to Matthew 28:18-20 are believing we don't have the right words, or we're not capable of effective evangelism or discipleship, or thinking it's "not the right time" to talk about Jesus. How does the experience of Ruth challenge these notions?

Leader help: God worked through a weak, vulnerable outsider in a time of unprecedented sinfulness to accomplish great things. We can trust that He still loves working through weak sinners like us (see 2 Cor. 12:7-10).

2. What are some things that Christians sometimes do or say that might unwittingly cause someone to believe they're too far gone or unwelcome for the gospel? How do we personally own this and work toward change?
3. Knowing God worked in the hard, dark times of Judges, rather than echoing the doomsayers of our day who claim bad times are coming for Christians, how can we stir one another up to keep making disciples?



PRAYER

Give God thanks for the ways He's worked in your life, even in the hard times.

Passage to guide your prayers: Romans 15:13

Pray for God to demonstrate His power and grace by working through your weaknesses.

Passage to guide your prayers: Isaiah 40:29-31

Pray for God to intervene in the lives of those who are stuck in darkness and unbelief.

Passage to guide your prayers: Romans 5:6-8

Week 4: Matt. 1:18-25

MAIN POINT

Mary and Joseph faced confusion, fear, and societal pressure, but God's grace gave them courage. We, too, face uncertainty, fear of the future, and stress over what others think. God's grace doesn't always make life easier, but He gives peace and courage in the midst of fear.

GROUP INTRO

Christmas gatherings: small and cozy or crowded and loud? Why?

TEXT

1. Read Matthew 1:18-19, then read Deuteronomy 22:20-21. Why does Joseph seek to divorce Mary?

Leader help: Joseph is called a "just man," which could also be translated as "a law-abiding man," meaning he wants to live his life according to God's Law. Although Joseph and Mary haven't engaged in premarital sex, she's pregnant, which would imply to others that they've acted unlawfully/sinfully. To preserve his own reputation as a just man and avoid publicly shaming Mary, he decides a quiet divorce is the lawful solution (according to Deuteronomy 24 and Numbers 5, divorce was permitted in some instances).



2. In the midst of a complex, stressful situation, God sends an angel to deliver His instructions and promises. Read Matthew 1:20-23. What essential truths do we learn about Jesus from these verses?

Leader help: 1. Jesus is the "Son of David" in two ways: First, because He fulfills the promise of 2 Samuel 7:12-16; Second, because He is the legal son of Joseph, whose ancestor was King David. 2. Jesus was miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit. This tells us that salvation through Jesus is entirely dependent upon God's initiative and action, not humanity. 3. Jesus will be successful in God's initiated salvation; He will save His people from their sins. 4. The salvation Jesus accomplished wasn't some afterthought in history; it was the plan from the beginning, and something God had promised through His prophets before Mary and Joseph even existed. 5. Jesus is God in the flesh; He is not a creature. 6. Jesus fulfills all of God's promises by God's initiative, which means that our salvation, from beginning to end, is entirely God's work. 7. Jesus is truly human and truly God, not "half God, half human" or some mixture of both.

- 
3. Read Matthew 1:24-25. There is a tradition within Catholicism that Mary was a perpetual virgin and never had other children. How do the verses contradict this tradition, and what's the significance of Mary having other children?

Leader help: Matthew explicitly tells his audience that Joseph "knew her not until she had given birth...", meaning that, after Jesus was born, they had sex for the first time.

This is significant because:

- A. It shows that God's view of sex is positive; sex was His idea for a husband and wife.*
- B. It helps us understand the detrimental effects of sin upon us. Jesus had real brothers who grew up with Him and witnessed His ministry, but who nonetheless didn't trust in Him as Lord and Savior until after His death and resurrection (see Mark 3:20-21; John 7:2-5; Acts 1:14; James 1:1 [written by Jesus's brother]; Jude 1:1 [written by Jesus's brother]).*
- C. Any tradition or teaching that contradicts the clear teachings of the Bible must be abandoned, even if it has a long history.*

APPLICATION

1. What are some impacts upon our faith if we dismiss the doctrine of the virgin birth?

Leader help: Below are a few impacts.

- A. The authority and trustworthiness of the Bible are compromised.*
- B. Albert Mohler writes that the virgin birth, "explains how Christ could be both God and man, how He was without sin, and that the entire work of salvation is God's gracious act."*

- 
2. The angel gives Joseph absolute assurance that Jesus will successfully complete His mission of salvation: "He will save His people from their sins." According to the Bible, what keeps us from trusting that Jesus has saved us? How can we reinforce the reality of this truth in our discipleship?
 3. Why is it good news that God initiates and completes everything necessary to save His people from their sins?

PRAYER

Praise Jesus for saving you from your sins.

Passage to guide your prayers: Colossians 2:13-15

Pray for those in your life who reject Jesus and ask God to give you the opportunity, boldness, and words to talk about His Son.

Passage to guide your prayers: 1 Peter 1:3

Ask God for unbreakable assurance of salvation.

Passage to guide your prayers: Hebrews 10:23

Week 5: Matt. 1:3; Gen. 38

MAIN POINT

Tamar was abused, silenced, and forgotten, but not by God. Her story was woven into Jesus's arrival because Jesus doesn't come from sanitized stories; He enters into shame to redeem it, restoring what others have discarded.

GROUP INTRO

If your Christmas elf name was your favorite holiday treat and the last thing you lost, what would your name be?

TEXT

1. Read Matthew 1:3, then read Genesis 38:6-19, 24-26. Who is Tamar, and how did her father-in-law, Judah, treat her?

Leader help: Tamar is a Canaanite woman whom Judah chose as the wife of his firstborn son, Er. But Er, along with his brother Onan, both died under God's judgment. Judah treated Tamar, a vulnerable widow, unjustly. He denied her the right to have and raise a new child, he left her economically and socially vulnerable, he left her shamed and forgotten, and he condemned her sin even while trying to hide his own.

2. How does Tamar's being included in the Messiah's genealogy reveal God's faithfulness, even in the face of sin and shame?

Leader help: Despite Judah's selfishness and sin, and Tamar's shame and suffering, God advanced His covenant through all of this wickedness and pain. This also shows that Jesus identifies with those who have been marginalized and marred by injustice, abandonment, and the sin of others. Within the Messiah's own bloodline is a testimony of God's grace when all hope seems lost.

3. Read Matthew 1:2-3 and Genesis 38:26-30.
How does God work through Judah's evil?

Leader help: Perez, who is in the ancestral line of King David, is born out of the sinful sexual immorality that Judah committed with Tamar. While not endorsing this evil, God overrides it and works through it, which shows Matthew's original audience and us today that nothing can stop God from redeeming His people. Because of His great love for us (see John 3:16), God was willing to work even in this darkness and shame to bring salvation to His people.

APPLICATION

1. Sometimes, shameful experiences from our past can still haunt us after coming to Christ. How can this passage provide healing and strength to those suffering under the weight of shame?

- 
2. In Genesis 38:26, Judah announces, “She is more righteous than I,” indicating his ownership of his sin and his repentance. How can this kind of honesty and repentance in our lives open the door for conversations about Jesus?
 3. Matthew had no problem highlighting complicated, dark, and overlooked individuals whom God put in Christ’s family tree. How do we make room in our church for those with complex stories, dark pasts, or shameful experiences?

PRAYER

Praise God that nothing can thwart His promises and redemption.

Passage to guide your prayers: Acts 4:23-28

Own the ways you’ve sinned in the last week, asking God to restore you to the paths of righteousness.

Passage to guide your prayers: Psalm 23:3

Pray for those who’ve walked through hard, dark times, asking God to make our church a community of refuge for them.

Passage to guide your prayers: Ephesians 2:11-13