



the Gospel of Matthew

Matthew 1:1-17 (week of Sept. 7, 2025)

Life Group Discussion Questions

DIVING DEEPER into God's Word together

- From his titles ([Matthew 1:1](#)) to his genealogy ([Matthew 1:2-17](#)), Matthew clearly situates Jesus within history in general and the Old Testament story in particular. How so?
- By calling Jesus the “son of Abraham” and “son of David” ([Matthew 1:1](#)), Matthew gives us a concise yet thick description of Jesus’ identity. Reflect on the central promises God gave to Abraham (see [Genesis 12:1-3](#); [22:18](#)) and David (see [2 Samuel 7:11-16](#); [Psalm 89:3-4](#)). What light do these shed on what Jesus came to do?
- Since ancient genealogies customarily traced lineage through men, the inclusion of five women—Tamar ([Matthew 1:3](#)), Rahab ([Matthew 1:5](#)), Ruth ([Matthew 1:5](#)), Bathsheba (“the wife of Uriah”; [Matthew 1:6](#)), and Mary ([Matthew 1:16](#))—is unusual. Further, Tamar, Rahab, and Ruth were Gentiles (non-Jews), and Tamar, Rahab, and Bathsheba were women of questionable character. Why would Matthew draw attention to these aspects of Jesus’ lineage? How does this already anticipate what we learn of Jesus in [Matthew 1:21](#)?
- What evidence is there that Matthew’s presentation of Jesus’ genealogy is very carefully structured? Identify the key moments or turning points in the ongoing story that is referenced through the genealogy.

APPLYING the truths of the text to our lives

- Jesus’ family tree includes people with messy pasts and broken stories. How does that shape the way you see yourself being in Jesus’ family? How does this help you respond to others who feel they are too far gone, stuck, or unworthy?
- Matthew was someone most people had written off, but Jesus saw purpose in him. Is there someone in your life who others overlook, avoid, or judge—someone God might be calling you to love or reach out to? *Action Step: Will you commit to praying for them this week, and maybe take a small step to connect or encourage them?*
- If Jesus is King, that means He gets to lead—every area, every decision, every aspect of our lives. How might God’s kingship challenge the way you make choices this week? Is there a decision or habit you need to surrender to His rule?