



Dwelling in the Word

Prayerfully read Matt 1:1-17 and ask: 1) What words, phrases, or images stood out to you? 2) What does this say about what God desires to accomplish in you? 3) How could you respond to what God says in this passage?

Beginning the Conversation

1. How much do you know about your family history? Is there anything you would want to know more about? Have you discovered any fun stories? What significance do you see in your ancestors?
2. If you could travel back in time to meet anyone in history, who would it be and why?

Digging Deeper *(pick some of the following questions to discuss as a group)*

1. Matthew roots Jesus' lineage in Abraham, whom God called out of sheer grace and promised to bless him, his family, and "all the families of the earth" through him (Genesis 12:1-3). How does the fulfilment of this promise (see Galatians 3:29; Romans 8:17; and Ephesians 3:6) help us understand the character of God and the nature of the gospel?
2. If Abraham provides the starting point for Jesus' lineage, King David provides its focus. God's promise to David that someone from his line would always be on the throne (2Samuel 7:15-16), is what led to the hope in a coming King from the line of David (the Messiah), who would rule with justice and equity (see Isaiah 9:6-7). How does the identification of Jesus as the Messiah shift the expectations and hopes of his ministry? How did Jesus' actual ministry differ from the expectations placed on him? Are your expectations of Jesus sometimes different from how he fulfils them?
3. Jesus is called the "Son of David" a number of times in Matthew (see 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:9, 15). Looking at the context of these passages, what are the expectations of the individuals who identify Jesus as the "Son of David"? How does Jesus' actions exemplify his Messianic identity?
4. There are a number of explanations for the inclusion of the four women — Tamar; Rahab; Ruth; and Bathsheba — in Jesus' lineage that were mentioned in the sermon. What one do you find most compelling? How do you think the inclusion of these women in Jesus' lineage foreshadow how God works through Mary, Jesus' mother?
5. In the ancient world ascribed honour (from birth, family status) was seen as more important than acquired honour (from personal achievement, like education and business success). How do you see honour and status working in our Canadian culture? What does the gospel say about honour?

Living it Out

1. Jesus is the culmination of his family tree. How have your ancestors contributed to who you are — your opportunities and obstacles?
2. The genealogy of Jesus illustrates how the God of the Bible invites outsiders to join his people. How can you live out this same hospitable impulse to include outsiders in your own life?



BIRTH OF THE KING

ADVENT 2025

According to the Gospel of Matthew



Ancestry.com The Lineage of the King (Matthew 1:1-17)

November 30, 2025
Pastor Tyler Williams
Greenfield Community Church

Genealogies & Family Trees



"What are the subjects which the Spartans gladly hear from you?" Hippias replied, "They listen with the greatest pleasure to the genealogies of their heroes and men, to the settlement of tribes, and how cities were founded of old and, in a word, to everything concerning antiquarian knowledge" (Plato, *Hp. Mai.* 285d).



Genealogies & Family Trees



1. In the ancient world, genealogies functioned to connect people with their past, in order to give them a sense of

Identity

2. In first century Roman and Jewish culture, genealogies also functioned to ascribe

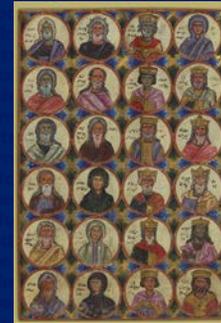
Honour

Genealogies & Family Trees



"For those who are not well-born, whether on the father's or on the mother's side, have an indelible disgrace in their low birth, which accompanies them throughout their lives, and offers anyone desiring to use it a ready subject of reproach and insult" (Plutarch, *Mor* 1.1.2).

Jesus' Royal Lineage



1. Details of Jesus' Royal Lineage
2. Oddities in Jesus' Royal Lineage

Details of Jesus' Royal Lineage



"This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham" (1:1).

- "Book of the generations" (Βιβλος γενεσεως); echoes the genealogies found in Genesis 2:4, 5:1; suggests a new beginning.
- Jesus is described in three ways:

1. Royal Messiah

2. Son of David

3. Son of Abraham

Details of Jesus' Royal Lineage



"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" (1:17).

- The significance of the three 14s:
 - ➔ Jesus is the "son of David" par excellence!
- The last section, is only 13 generations...
 - ➔ We are the 14th generation!

"David"
in Hebrew (דָּוִד)
4 = ד
6 = ו = 14
4 = ד

Details of Jesus' Royal Lineage



Verses 1 and 17 form an *Inclusio* or *Chiasm* (ABC-CBA):

A. Messiah B. David C. Abraham (1:1)

Abraham to David

David to Jeconiah (the exile)

Jeconiah to Joseph (to the Messiah)

C. Abraham B. David A. Messiah



Details of Jesus' Royal Lineage



Identity

Jesus is identified as from the line of David and the line of Abraham = He is the Messiah!

Honour?

Many of the names in his lineage would increase his honour, but there are some oddities....

Oddities in Jesus' Royal Lineage



Four Unexpected Women

- "Zerah, whose mother was Tamar" (1:3).
- "Boaz, whose mother was Rahab" (1:5).
- "Obed, whose mother was Ruth" (1:5).
- "Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife" (1:6).

Oddities in Jesus' Royal Lineage



Tamar (Genesis 38)

- Judah's Canaanite/Aramaeian daughter-in-law who disguised herself as a temple prostitute in order to trick Judah into giving her a son and heir. Based on the law surrounding Levirate marriage (Deuteronomy 25:5-10).

Oddities in Jesus' Royal Lineage



Rahab (Joshua 2)

- Canaanite prostitute who aided the spies and was spared because of her loyalty when they captured Jericho (Josh 6:22-23).

Oddities in Jesus' Royal Lineage



Ruth (The Book of Ruth)

- Moabite widow who was faithful to her Israelite mother, Naomi, and who married Boaz and produced an heir in King David's lineage.

Oddities in Jesus' Royal Lineage



Uriah's wife, Bathsheba (2Samuel 11-12; 1Kings 1)

- Hittite woman whom King David raped and committed adultery with, killed her husband, and then married. She later gave birth to King Solomon.

Oddities in Jesus' Royal Lineage



Why were these four women included?

1. The four women are all "sinners."
2. The four women are all foreigners.
3. The four women are examples of how God uses the unexpected to bring about his purposes.

Jesus' Royal Lineage



Jesus' lineage demonstrates that "honour" in the Kingdom of God is based not on human achievement or status, but fully on God's grace.

Invitation



Looking for God in the Unexpected.

The God of the Bible is a God who invites others to join his people; and we need to be patterning our lives after the God who invites and includes.