

STUDYING THE BOOK OF MATTHEW
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 1 - The Genealogy of Jesus - Matthew 1:1-17

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

MT 1:1 A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham:

MT 1:2 Abraham was the father of Isaac,
Isaac the father of Jacob,
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

MT 1:3 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,
Perez the father of Hezron,
Hezron the father of Ram,

MT 1:4 Ram the father of Amminadab,
Amminadab the father of Nahshon,
Nahshon the father of Salmon,

MT 1:5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,
Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,
Obed the father of Jesse,

MT 1:6 and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,

MT 1:7 Solomon the father of Rehoboam,
Rehoboam the father of Abijah,
Abijah the father of Asa,

MT 1:8 Asa the father of Jehoshaphat,
Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram,
Jehoram the father of Uzziah,

MT 1:9 Uzziah the father of Jotham,
Jotham the father of Ahaz,
Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,

MT 1:10 Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,
Manasseh the father of Amon,
Amon the father of Josiah,

MT 1:11 and Josiah the father of Jeconiah* and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

MT 1:12 After the exile to Babylon:
Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,

MT 1:13 Zerubbabel the father of Abiud,
Abiud the father of Eliakim,
Eliakim the father of Azor,

MT 1:14 Azor the father of Zadok,
Zadok the father of Akim,
Akim the father of Eliud,

MT 1:15 Eliud the father of Eleazar,
Eleazar the father of Matthan,
Matthan the father of Jacob,

MT 1:16 and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

MT 1:17 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 Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 1 - The Genealogy of Jesus - Matthew 1:1-17

1. Whose genealogy is Matthew tracing? (1:1)
2. What prominent ancestors of Christ are mentioned? (1:1)
3. Who is listed first in the various sections? (1:2, 6, 12)
4. What significant women were ancestors of Christ? (1:5-6, 16)
5. Who is the only person in the record who is listed with his title? (1:6)
6. How does Solomon figure into the genealogy? (1:6)
7. The genealogical record is divided into what three periods? (1:17)
8. What span of time does the genealogical record cover? (1:17)

9. What important event and three people are used as a basis for marking the generations? (1:17)

10. How many generations are cited in all? (1:17)

Lesson 2 - The Birth of Jesus Christ - Matthew 1:18-25

MT 1:18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. [19] Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

MT 1:20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. [21] She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

MT 1:22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: [23] "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" --which means, "God with us."

MT 1:24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. [25] But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 2 - The Birth of Jesus Christ - Matthew 1:18-25

11. What happened to Mary while she and Joseph were engaged? (1:18)

12. What do you think Joseph initially thought upon hearing this news about his bride-to-be? (1:18-19)

13. What positive character qualities did Joseph possess? (1:19)

14. How did Joseph plan to handle this delicate situation? (1:19)

15. How was Joseph's ancestry significant? (1:20)

16. Why did Joseph change his plans to divorce Mary? (1:20)

17. If Joseph wasn't the actual father of Christ, who was? (1:18, 20)

18. What did the angel command Joseph to name the child and why? (1:21)
19. What significant mission in life would Mary's child have? (1:21)
20. Why is Mary's virginal conception of Christ significant? (1:22-23)
21. What does Immanuel mean? (1:23)
22. How did Joseph respond to the angelic message? (1:24)