

Notes for Connect Leaders

Matthew 1:1-17

The genealogy / origin (think Genesis 1:1 and 2:4 ...in the beginning/the account of...) – is this the new creation?

Jesus Messiah: anointed King, God's chosen rescuer.

The son of David 2 Sam. 7:12-13 Jesus is the ultimate/eternal King

The son of Abraham Genesis 12:3 Jesus is the means by which all nations would be blessed
God is faithful and works His purposes out!

God is gracious and humbles Himself to come to us 2 Cor. 8:9

Note the circumstances of His birth and also the far from perfect family history He was born into.

Tamar: Genesis 38

Rahab: Canaanite Prostitute in Jericho

Ruth: Moabite woman Deut. 23:3

Uriah's wife: Adultery with David

Mary: *Anawim* – Israel's poor and marginalised but characterised by great devotion to God; unmarried and pregnant.

Jesus has significant brokenness in His family line, serious dysfunction. He is the wonderful counsellor who understands.

See the love He has for us and the humility He shows in coming to us in such a vulnerable way.

Note the fact that we need to come in faith and repentance in order to receive the healing and wholeness He wants to bring to us through his death and resurrection.

Rehoboam, Jehoram, Amon, and Jeconiah were 4 evil kings who had godly fathers. Grace doesn't run in the genes or through the youth group (or Youth and Families Pastor!) but through the living and enduring Word of God, (1Peter 1:23) by the Spirit, leading to faith and repentance.

NB: Joseph is not Jesus' biological father. Notice the way verse 16 is worded and the emphasis on Mary being the one Jesus was born to. So there is no DNA link in Jesus to his ancestors but God has still given Him this really quite messed up and dysfunctional heritage. This is still His human family even though, as we shall see, He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. This "virgin birth" is also the means by which Jesus can enter the world as sinless and not "damaged" as we are through original sin.

Points to Ponder

- 1 "If you want to get to know someone get to know their family history". To what extent do you agree with this? Would it be true of you? [An opportunity for people to get to know each other a bit more by sharing thoughts on this open ended question.]
- 2 What questions do people have from the teaching that was given? What points were helpful and what were not? What did people take away?

- 3 Highlight the examples of dysfunction in Jesus' genealogy. Unpack any that people might not be familiar with. Given that God could have arranged for these to be "avoided" and instead provided Jesus with a first class pedigree, what purpose does it serve? What does it tell us about God? What does this say to us? How can this be a great encouragement for us?
- 4 The reference in v1 to Jesus being the son of David and Abraham underlines the fact that God fulfils His purposes even in the midst of many obstacles. How will this encourage you this week?
- 5 How could you use the truths we've unpacked to help a friend who feels deeply discouraged because of the state of their family (past or present) or their own failures? They feel a sense of shame and despondency that God can't or won't use them. What could you say from this text? [We see that God loves us through the way He chose to come to earth. He could have come with riches and a perfect pedigree but He didn't. He loves us that much! 2 Cor. 8:9 makes the same point. He has embraced dysfunction, brokenness and damaged people as well as people who cause damage. We see in those who rejected God and did much evil (despite godly fathers) that God will work His purposes out.]
- 6 Take time to pray for one another to the end that we would grasp these truths firmly.