



Christmas

for

OMAHA

Providence

Discussion Guide
December 10, 2017
Matthew 1:1-17

Questions for Study

** Before you begin discussing these questions, read through Matthew 1:1-17 as a group.

1. How far back can you go in your family tree? Are there any ways knowing your lineage affects how you view yourself?
2. Why is including this family tree of Jesus important for Matthew's gospel – what is he trying to accomplish with it? Explain.
3. How does Jesus' family tree help us see that Jesus is the promised King that God would send? (For more on the Old Testament background of these promises of a king, see Genesis 12:1-3 and 17:5-7; 2 Samuel 7:16; and Isaiah 9:6-7.)
4. Imagine you had to help a friend understand the meaning of this statement: "If Jesus is the King of history, it follows that He should be the King of your life." What would you say? As a group, can you think of other Bible verses that would be relevant to this conversation?
5. Jesus' family tree also shows us that God can bring a masterpiece out of what seems messy. Review the names included in Matthew 1:1-17. Briefly discuss any names that stand out to you, and some of the "messiness" that may be associated with that name – based on what you know from the Old Testament.
6. Fast forward to Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection. How is this another example (the prime example!) of God bringing a masterpiece out of what seems messy?
7. Are there ways you've seen God turn brokenness into beauty in your own life already? Share what this has looked like, and lessons you've learned about how God works.
8. Are you in the middle of any difficult, "messy" situations right now? Knowing that God can bring a masterpiece out of what is messy, how can you stay faithful to Him and cling to Him...even while the situation is messy?
9. Share how what you've learned "behind the scenes" of Jesus' family tree can help you approach Christmas. What practically will you do to keep this truth in mind, during this Christmas season?
10. As we approach Christmas, what can you do to sustain a focus on Christ? If you have a family, how can you help your family with this?
11. **Challenge:** Memorize Matthew 1:23: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").