

WEEKLY GAME PLAN

Family Tree

Read Matthew 1:1-4, Genesis 15:4-6

Context: No one's family line is perfect. The more we dig in to families, the more human we find them to be. Jesus's earthly family was no different because it was filled with people. Thankfully, who was in our family is not a deterrent to God accepting us into His family. Throughout Jesus's family story, written in [His lineage](#), are saints and sinners, people after His own heart and people who let their pride and arrogance get the better of them. What has mattered to God throughout history is the faith you have to believe in Him and His Son who He sent to be the sacrifice for your sins.

Reflection Question: Why do you think it was important for Matthew's Jewish audience to see that Jesus was directly descended from Abraham, Perez and Amminidab? How can you see your own family in some of Jesus's family? What hope does it give you to know that not even Jesus's family was perfect?

Read Matthew 1:5-8, 2 Chronicles 19:3-4, 1 Peter 2:12 ESV

Context: Matthew is not afraid to mix in some undesirables into his genealogy for Jesus. He went from Jehoshaphat, who was considered one of the better kings that Judah had. (He got rid of the high places and the idols. It's said of him that "[he has] set [his] heart on seeking God.") to his descendant Jehoram. Jehoram was so bad that he married a wicked woman, Athalia, daughter of king Arab. He purposely led the people of Judah into idolatry. It's a messy thing when those who have gone before us have not set the greatest example for us. Thankfully, we have also had great examples, such as David, who, even after his sins and mistakes, is considered "a man after [God's] own heart."

Reflection Question: What mistakes have you let hold you back because you didn't have great role models growing up? What can you do to break free from the examples of your past and step into the new life God has for you? How can you be a great role model for people who may be watching you?

Read Matthew 1:9-13, 2 Chronicles 33:2, 6, 10, 12-13

Context: Here we get a beautiful representation of God's amazing generosity in forgiving a humble heart. Manasseh was so evil he would sacrifice his own children in the fire. He aroused the Lord's anger

because of how much evil he did. However, when God had had enough and disciplined Manasseh, we're told that "in his distress he sought the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before God." This moved God to forgive him and restore his kingdom to him. This is another example of how God cares about the state of our hearts.

Reflection Question: What is the first thing you do when God disciplines you? How can you humble yourself before God today and seek restoration? What is holding you back from turning everything over to God so that your relationship with Him can be whole?

Read Matthew 1:14-17, Galatians 4:4-7

Context: Matthew takes the time to show us Jesus's royal lineage through David and Solomon and ends it with "Joseph, the husband of Mary." This is one way that we're shown that Joseph was all in and accepted Jesus as his own. This is what God does for us. He has completely adopted us into His family, through the blood of Jesus. Society would say we are a misfit bunch, but Christ says we have a place with Him where we belong, to a family and to God. He has given us standing in His kingdom.

Reflection Question: What do you do when you feel like you don't fit in anywhere? Who do you turn to? How can you show someone else this week that they can have a place where they belong no matter how outcast they feel?

Read Matthew 1:3, 5-6, 16, Ruth 1:16-17, 4:11-12, Hebrews 11:31, 1 Kings 1:28-31, Luke 1:38

Context: There are some ordinary women who had extraordinary faith that set them up to be part of [the line of the Messiah](#). While not one of these women would know the impact they would have on Jesus's story, they still moved in the faith that God would keep His promises. They loved God and showed that love in practical ways that God blessed. Their stories and examples are culminated in the quiet obedience of Mary, Jesus's mother, who said, "I am the Lord's servant." God's group of societal misfits brought about the Messiah of the world because they had faith and they were willing to be used by God for His good purpose and glory.

Reflection Question: How can you show God that you are willing to do what He wants you to do even when the odds against you are astronomical? How is your faith renewed by reading about the "misfits" in Jesus's own family line? What hope does it give you to know that anyone who is willing can make a difference for God in the lives of others?

End in prayer. No matter your background or past, God can redeem your story. How will you share that story of redemption with others this week?