

From Abraham to Jesus

1

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 1:1-17

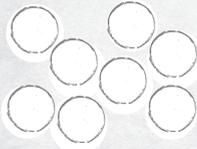
MAIN POINT: Jesus' earthly family included Abraham, David, and others.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Timothy 1:15

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What makes Jesus different? Jesus is fully God and fully man.

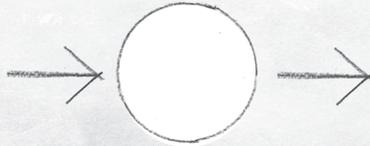
SMALL GROUP OPENING
(10–15 MINUTES)

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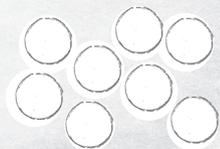
LARGE GROUP BIBLE STUDY
(25–30 MINUTES)

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SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES
(25–30 MINUTES)

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Leader BIBLE STUDY

The prophecies concerning Jesus' birth are numerous, and many of them refer to Jesus' lineage. Old Testament prophecies tell of the promised Messiah being born from the seed of a woman (Gen. 3:15); from the seed of Abraham (Gen. 22:18), Isaac (Gen. 21:12), and Jacob (Num. 24:17); from the tribe of Judah (Micah 5:2); from the line of Jesse (Isa. 11:1); and from the house of David (Jer. 23:5). The prophecies said He would be born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14) and would be the Son of God (1 Chron. 17:13-14; Ps. 2:7). Jesus fulfilled all of these prophecies.

In Bible times, Jews took great care to accurately record family genealogies. The family a person belonged to was

directly linked to property rights. Matthew 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-38 both chronicle the genealogy of Jesus. The account in Matthew presents Jesus as the king of the Jews—the legal heir to the throne of David. The account in Luke was written to Greek Christians and focuses on Jesus’ descent from Adam.

Jesus was born as a baby in Bethlehem. He had earthly parents, Mary and Joseph, but His true Father is God. Jesus is fully God and fully man.

As fully God, in Him “the entire fullness of God’s nature dwells bodily” (Col. 2:9). As fully man, Jesus has a human body, human mind, and human emotions. (See Luke 2:7,52; Matt. 26:38.) He is our sinless representative (2 Cor. 5:21), sympathetic high priest (Heb. 4:15), and substitute sacrifice (1 John 4:10).

Use this Bible story with the kids you teach to review Jesus’ ancestors and their stories in the Old Testament. Help kids recognize that God had been working out His plan to send Jesus over hundreds of years—through Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Jesse, David, Solomon, and Josiah. God sent Jesus to earth to save people from their sins.



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Additional resources for each session are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

From Abraham to Jesus

Matthew 1:1-17

- **Use the Big Story**

Circle: Point out the Bible people from previous Bible stories on the Big Story Circle as you tell the story.

- **Dress-up guests:**

Before class, provide Bible times head coverings (pillowcases or shawls) to a few adult helpers or other leaders and assign them a name. When you call that name, leaders will stand up and put on the head covering.

Jesus is God the Son. God the Son has always existed; no one created Him. God planned to send His Son to earth to save people from sin. Jesus came to earth as a baby. He was born to Mary, who was married to Joseph. Jesus is fully God, and He is fully human too. That makes Jesus different from any other man.

Like all people on earth, Jesus' family had a history—a family tree. Jesus had parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and great-great-grandparents ... all the way back for many generations.

Jesus came from the family of Abraham and the family of King David. Abraham had a son named Isaac. When Isaac had a family, one of his sons was named Jacob. Jacob was part of Jesus' family.

Years later, a man named Salmon (SAL mahn) was born into Jesus' family tree. He married Rahab (RAY hab), who hid the Israelite spies when they came to Jericho. Rahab had a baby, and his name was Boaz (BOH az). Boaz was a farmer, and he married Ruth. Boaz and Ruth had a son named Obed (OH bed).

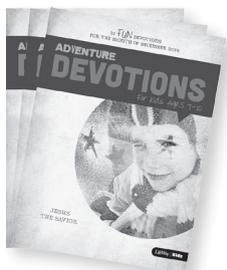
Obed's son was Jesse. Jesse had many sons, and the youngest was David. David was just a boy when he was chosen to be Israel's king. King David liked to write. He wrote songs—called psalms—and some of them were about the time when Jesus would come to earth.

Other people in Jesus' family were kings too. David's son Solomon was a king. King Jehoshaphat (jih HAHSH uh fat) was part of Jesus' family, and so was Uzziah (uh ZIGH uh), Ahaz (AY haz), Hezekiah (HEZ ih kigh uh),

and Josiah.

Then came Matthan (MAT than). Matthan's son was named Jacob, and Jacob's son was named Joseph. Joseph is the man who took Mary to be his wife. Mary was Jesus' mother and Joseph raised Jesus as his own son. Jesus was truly God's Son—the Messiah.

Christ Connection: Jesus came to earth as a baby in Bethlehem. Jesus had earthly parents, Mary and Joseph, but His true Father is God. Through Jesus, God kept His promises to Abraham and David. Jesus saves people from their sin and adopts them into God's family.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
ADVENTURE!**

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover that Jesus had an earthly family, but His true Father is God. God's plan for Jesus was to rescue people from sin. (1 John 4:14) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: From Abraham to Jesus

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 1:1-17

MAIN POINT: Jesus' earthly family included Abraham, David, and others.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Timothy 1:15

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What makes Jesus different? Jesus is fully God and fully man.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. As kids arrive, talk to them about their families. Ask them if they know the names of their grandparents' grandparents.

SAY • It was hard to name people older than your grandparents. All of us come from a long line of people who lived before us, but we don't always remember them. After a few generations, it can be hard to keep track. Today we will be learning about Jesus' family and His ancestors.

Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the "Similarity Search" activity page. In each of the four sets of pictures, kids will circle the one that is similar, but not identical.

SAY • That last one was difficult. All four looked different! Although they all looked different, three of them were just human. Jesus is fully human and fully God. Jesus is similar to His ancestors—and to us—in many ways, but He is not exactly like us.

- "Similarity Search" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Birth order

Help kids determine their age based on the day, month, and year of their birth. Instruct them to line up from oldest to youngest, then help them state their exact age one at a time, such as 7 years, 3 months, and 23 days, if they can.

SAY • You can tell many things about a person just by knowing when he or she was born. For example, your great-grandparents probably grew up with a favorite radio program. Most of your parents had a favorite television show instead. Today, you watch shows on tablets and smartphones! We will be learning a little about Jesus and the people in His family who were born before Him.

OPTION 2: Family lists

Give each child a sheet of paper and a pencil. Give kids one minute to list as many people in their family as they can. When they are able, they should include the person's name.

SAY • We usually don't know all the people in our family. Chances are you have distant cousins or great-great-great-aunts whom you have never met. But we all have families, no matter how many members of our family we know. Jesus had a family too! Today we will learn a little about Jesus' family and talk about the way we can join His family.



• class roster (optional)

• paper
• pencils
• stopwatch

Transition to large group

Large Group LEADER

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- room decorations
- Theme Background Slide (optional)

Suggested Theme Decorating Ideas: Decorate your space to look like a family den or living room. Place a large easy chair or rocker at the front and hang family pictures on the walls. Consider creating a hearth using foam board and paint. You may also project the theme background slide.

Countdown

- countdown video
- “The Big Story” video (optional)

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins. Because this is the start of a new quarter, you may wish to show “The Big Story” video to help kids see where these stories fit in the chronology of Scripture.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

- leader attire
- family picture

[Large Group Leader enters wearing a cardigan, gray wig, and thick glasses. He or she sits in the chair on stage and grabs a nearby picture of a family.]

LEADER • Well, hello there, children! What a pleasant surprise to see you. I was expecting my grandchildren to come by soon. Did they tell you all to come too? *[Allow responses.]* I suppose it doesn't matter either way. I'm glad you are here. I just love sharing stories

with my grandkids. I could talk for hours about the way things used to be. Oh, but dear me, I don't want to spoil the stories before my grandkids arrive.

How would you like to hear a different kind of family story while we wait for them? [*Allow responses.*] That's wonderful. Our Bible story today is about Jesus' family. Who can remember some of the people in Jesus' family? [*Allow responses.*] That's right!

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • You see, Jesus had a family, just like each of you. He had grandparents and great-grandparents, and great-great-grandparents, and ... well, I suppose you get the idea. But Jesus wasn't exactly like you or me. As you listen to the story today, see if you can find the answer to our big picture question: *What makes Jesus different?*

Giant timeline (1 minute)

LEADER • This is the very first week that we will be hearing a story from the New Testament. In previous weeks, you have learned about the promise God made to send a Rescuer and the wonderful ways God was preparing the world for His arrival. Today, we will be remembering the people God used as part of the Jesus' lineage, or family line!

• Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 1:1-17. Tell the Bible story using the Bible Storytelling Tips on the Bible story page, or show the Bible story video "From Abraham to Jesus."

LEADER • Hmm ... some of those names sounded really

• Bibles
• "From Abraham to Jesus" video
• Big Picture Question Poster
• Bible Story Picture Poster

familiar, didn't they? Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? I know we learned about Ruth, Boaz, and their son Obed, too. Today's Bible story reminds us that Jesus came from a royal family! King David and his son King Solomon were Jesus' ancestors. The promises God made to these people were talking about Jesus!

God always keeps His promises. Do you remember all the promises God made in the Old Testament about the coming Rescuer? God promised to bless the whole world through Abraham's family! Then God promised David that his family would have a king to rule forever—Jesus. **Jesus' earthly family included Abraham, David, and others.**

Jesus showed that God kept all of these promises! Jesus came to earth as a baby, born in Bethlehem. Jesus had earthly parents, Mary and Joseph, but His true Father is God. Jesus is different from Abraham and all the other people in His earthly family. ***What makes Jesus different? Jesus is fully God and fully man.*** That's our big picture question and answer. Say it with me. ***What makes Jesus different? Jesus is fully God and fully man.***

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

Christ connection

LEADER • The Bible lists the people who were part of Jesus' lineage, His family line. Jesus is God the Son, and He has always existed. Before He came to earth, He was in heaven with God the Father. God sent His Son to earth to be born as a baby because of His love for us. God kept His promises to Abraham and David.

Did you know that you can be part of Jesus'

family? The Bible teaches that when we trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior, God forgives our sin and adopts us into His family. Being a son or daughter of God is an amazing blessing. When Jesus returns to the earth, He will restore all things and remove all evil forever. Then He will fully establish His kingdom, including everyone who believes in Jesus as part of His family!

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Read 1 Timothy 1:15 aloud. Then lead boys and girls to read the key passage together.

LEADER • Paul wrote these words to a young friend named Timothy. Jesus is God the Son, and He came into the world as a man to save people from sin!

Jesus' earthly family included Abraham, David, and others. God sent His Son into the world through a human family, which means that *Jesus is fully God and fully man*. God was also keeping His promises to Abraham and David. Jesus saves people from their sins and adopts them into God's family.

Lead boys and girls to sing "This Saying."

- Key Passage Poster
- "This Saying" song

Sing (4 minutes)

LEADER • God's plan to save sinners has been at work throughout history. When we look back at all the people in Jesus' family line, we can remember God's faithfulness and love. Let's praise Him with singing. Sing together "The Savior We Need."

- "The Savior We Need" song

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

LEADER • If you could meet any famous person, whether

- "Unit 19, Session 1" discussion starter video

still alive or not, who would you choose? Who do you think is the most famous person in history? Show the “Unit 19, Session 1” discussion starter video. Then discuss what makes a person famous. Can a person be famous without being important? Why do we remember some people from history and not others? Who is the most important person in history?

LEADER • People may not all agree on who is the most famous person in history, but Jesus is the most important Person. One day He will return to restore the earth and live with all those who are adopted into His family. Then everyone will worship Jesus as the most famous and important King!

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to small groups.

LEADER • Father, You are good and loving. You are merciful and kind. You are gracious and faithful. Thank You for giving us Your Word so we can learn about You and Your Son. Thank You that *Jesus is fully God and fully man*. Thank You for adopting us into Your family. Help us love You and make You famous in the world.

Dismiss to small groups

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. You may provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

Small Group LEADER

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Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- "Family Picture" printable
- scissors
- tape
- "This Saying" song

Print the "Family Picture" printable and cut it into puzzle pieces. Challenge kids to finish the puzzle, taping the pieces together. Then turn it over to read the verse with kids.

SAY • Let's work on memorizing this verse for the next few weeks. Remember that Jesus came to earth as part of a human family. ***Jesus is fully God and fully man.***
Jesus came to save us from sin.

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Main Point Poster
- marker
- index cards

Write the names of about 10 people from Jesus' lineage on separate index cards. Choose 5 other people from the Bible who are not part of Jesus' lineage and write their names on index cards. Mix up the cards and give them to kids to sort and then arrange them from Abraham to Jesus. Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids locate Matthew 1:1-17 to check their work.

Suggested lineage names: *Abraham, Jacob, Rahab, Ruth, Jesse, David, Josiah, Joseph, Mary, Jesus.* Suggested non-lineage names: *Moses, Jonathan, Jonah, Esther, Nehemiah.*

SAY • Great job with those names! Jesus is God's Son, which makes Him fully God. Jesus was also born

into a human family on earth, which means He is fully man. **Jesus' earthly family included Abraham, David, and others.** God used many people to bring about His rescue plan, those in Jesus' earthly family and many who were not.

We can join Jesus' family when we trust in Him. When we believe in Jesus, we are forgiven of our sin and adopted by God into His family!

Ask the following review questions:

1. Who were Jesus' parents on earth? (*Mary and Joseph, Matt. 1:20-21*)
2. Who is Jesus' true Father? (*God the Father, Luke 1:35*)
3. Name a king in Jesus' family. (*David, Solomon, Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joram, Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon, Josiah, Jechoniah; Matt. 1:6-11*)
4. ***How is Jesus different? Jesus is fully God and fully man.***
5. Whose family did God promise would be as numerous as the stars? (*Abraham, Gen. 15:5*)
6. Can we be a part of Jesus' family? (*Yes, when we believe in Jesus we are adopted into Jesus' family; Gal. 4:5*)

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Family lineup

Before class, print and cut apart the "Family Lineup" printable. Invite your group to arrange the pictures of Jesus' ancestors chronologically, using the Bible as a reference.

SAY • Each of us has a family that goes back many years. Even if we cannot trace our families back very far, we know that we have ancestors because everyone



• "Family Lineup"
printable
• Bibles

has ancestors! In that way, Jesus was no different. He had a long line of people whom God used to bring Jesus into the world as a baby. However, though Jesus came from a family just like each of us, He is also different from all of us. ***What makes Jesus different? Jesus is fully God and fully man.***

When we believe in Jesus, we are forgiven of our sins and adopted into His family. God loves everyone, but only those who are adopted into His family will live with Him forever.

OPTION 2: Compare and contrast

Tape the two hula hoops to the wall so that they overlap slightly. Use a sticky note to label one circle *Jesus* and the other *people*. Label the overlapped section *both*.

Encourage kids to call out character traits that are specific to Jesus (*God the Son, has always existed, is fully God,* and so forth), specific to people (*born in sin, created by God, start out separated from God, need forgiveness,* and so forth), and shared by Jesus and people (*get hungry/thirsty, have families, born on earth, loved by God, play a part in God's plan,* and so forth).

As kids call out traits, write them on sticky notes and place them in the correct section of the diagram. When kids run out of ideas, discuss some of the traits they mentioned.

SAY • Jesus is like you and me in many ways. Jesus is also very different. ***What makes Jesus different? Jesus is fully God and fully man.*** Our story today listed many of the people in Jesus' family, going back all the way to Abraham! Jesus was a real man with real people in His family history.

We also know that Jesus is God the Son. That

- hula hoops, 2
- tape
- sticky notes
- pen

means that even when He was first born, He had all the power and perfection and holiness of God wrapped up in a human body. Both parts of Jesus are very important to know and understand. Jesus can relate to us and understand our struggles because He has lived as a human. But Jesus was able to live a sinless life and die to pay the penalty of our sin because He is fully God. When we trust in Him, we are forgiven and adopted into His family.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute each child's journal. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture showing how they feel when they think about their family. Remind the kids that even though our earthly families are imperfect, God can use them to bless us and help us learn to trust Him more.

SAY • Jesus is perfect, but His earthly family was not. His family was made up of broken and sinful people just like our families are. God used sinners in His plan to send Jesus as a baby, and He can use us and our families despite sin, too. That means that no matter how we feel about our families, God can use them for His good purposes to glorify Himself.

Make sure each child secures this week's sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray, thanking God for families and asking Him to use each kid's family to glorify Himself.

- pencils and crayons
- Journal Page
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's Big Picture Cards for Families to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.