

From Abraham to Jesus

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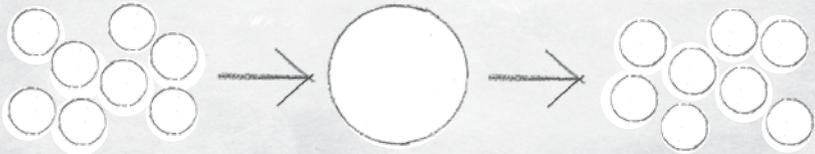
BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 1:1-17

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) **PAGE 10** **LARGE GROUP BIBLE STUDY** (25–30 MINUTES) **PAGE 12** **SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES** (25–30 MINUTES) **PAGE 18**



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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The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

From Abraham to Jesus

Matthew 1:1-17

- **Draw on a chalkboard:** With each person's name, draw a stick figure on a chalkboard to help show the large size of Jesus' family.
- **Post name tags:** Prepare adhesive name tags with the names included in the Bible story. As you mention each name, stick the tag to a focal wall.

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).

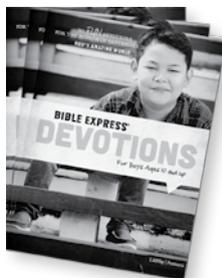
Obed's son was Jesse. Jesse had many sons, and the youngest was David. David was just a boy when he was chosen to be Israel's king. King David liked to write. He wrote songs—called psalms—and some of them were about the time when Jesus would come to earth.

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
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

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. Invite kids to share about their ancestors—grandparents, great-grandparents, and so forth. What do they know about them?

Activity page (5 minutes)

- “Family Tree” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete the “Family Tree” on the activity page. Kids should unscramble the letters under each space to reveal the name of a family member. (*grandfather, grandmother, father, mother, brother, sister*)

Encourage kids to draw a picture of each person, suggesting they depict kids and adults in their own families.

SAY • A family tree is a diagram that shows how people in different generations are related. Did you know that Jesus has a family tree? Today we are going to learn more about the people in Jesus' family.



- paper
- crayons or markers

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Illustrate families

Distribute paper and invite kids to use crayons or markers

to draw pictures of their families. Suggest that kids include themselves, siblings, parents, grandparents, and other close family members. When kids finish, allow volunteers to share their pictures and briefly describe their families.

SAY • Isn't it wonderful that God has given us families?

Family members love each other and care for one another. Jesus is God's Son, but did you know that when Jesus came to earth as a baby, God gave Him a family on earth? Jesus had brothers and sisters, parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and more! Today we are going to hear a story from the Bible about Jesus' family.

Tip: Be sensitive to different home situations.

OPTION 2: Alike and different

Print and cut apart the "Alike and Different Cards" printable. If your group is large, print multiple sets and play in smaller groups.

• "Alike and Different Cards" printable

Mix up the cards and distribute them to kids. Guide them to work together to arrange the cards in a 4-by-4 grid.

Explain that each row and column must contain items that are not alike (different animal and different color). For example, a yellow cat may not be in the same row or column as a red cat; a green dog may not be in the same row or column as a green caterpillar. Allow several minutes for kids to arrange the cards. Then check their work.

SAY • These things were alike in some ways and different in other ways. When Jesus came to earth, He was like us and yet different. Today we will learn about Jesus' family and about how Jesus is like us in many ways but also different from us too.

Transition to large group

Large Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: From Abraham to Jesus

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- room decorations
- Theme Background Slide (optional)

Suggested Theme Decorating Ideas: Simulate a living room by positioning a large chair or rocker at the front of the room. Cover the back of the chair with a small blanket. Set up a side table and lamp next to the chair and place photo albums or framed photos on the table. Consider hanging family photos on the wall. You may also project the theme background slide.

Countdown

- countdown video
- "The Big Story" video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins. Then begin the session by showing the video "The Big Story."

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

- leader attire
- backpack
- notebook
- Bible
- family photo

[Large Group Leader enters carrying a backpack, notebook, and Bible. Leader sets down the props and picks up a photo of a grandparent to show the kids.]

LEADER • Hello, everyone! I sure am glad to see you. I cannot wait to tell you about what I am going to be doing later today. First, has anyone here ever sat down and listened to stories from your grandparents about what life was like for them when they were

younger? [*Allow kids to respond.*]

I just love hearing from my family members about what life was like long ago. In fact, that is what I am going to do later. My grandmother is coming for a visit, and I plan to ask her all sorts of questions. While I wait for her to arrive, I want to tell you a Bible story about Jesus' family.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • Our Bible story is the first story we are going to hear from the New Testament. These stories will teach us a lot about who Jesus is and what He has done. When you hear the story today, listen carefully to see if you can find the answer to our big picture question: *What makes Jesus different?*

Giant timeline (1 minute)

LEADER • Let's take look at our giant timeline. As you might remember, the Bible is made up of a bunch of different stories. But we are learning that all of these stories fit together to tell us one big story—the story of how God sent Jesus to rescue people from sin.

Our story today is about the family that God gave Jesus when Jesus was born on earth. It's called "From Abraham to Jesus."

• Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 1:1-17. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video "From Abraham to Jesus."

LEADER • Wow! Did any of the names of people in Jesus'

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

family sound familiar? Do you remember Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? What about Ruth, Boaz, and their son Obed? Today's Bible story tells us that Jesus came from a family of kings! King David and his son King Solomon were part of Jesus' family on earth.

Our story shows us that God kept His promises. Do you remember all the promises God made in the Old Testament about the Messiah? God promised Abraham that someone would come from his family who would bless the whole world! He promised David that a king would come from his family who would rule forever. The prophet Isaiah said the Messiah would be born of a virgin.

Jesus made all of these promises come true! Jesus came to earth as a baby in Bethlehem. Jesus had earthly parents, Mary and Joseph, but His true Father is God. Jesus is different than Abraham, David, or anyone else 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.***

Christ connection

Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

LEADER • The Bible gives us a list of names of people who were part of Jesus' family. We know that God the Son has always existed. Before He came to earth, He was with the Father in heaven. God loved us and sent His Son to earth to be born as a baby. In this way, God kept His promise to Abraham and David.

Did you know that you can be part of Jesus' family? When we trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior,

God forgives our sin and adopts us into 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.

- Key Passage Poster
- “This Saying” song

LEADER • We will work on memorizing this verse over the next few weeks. This verse comes from 1 Timothy, which is in the New Testament. A man named Paul wrote these words to his friend Timothy. Jesus is God the Son, but He came into the world as a man. Why? To save people from sin! When Jesus became a man, He was still God the Son. That’s what makes Jesus different than any other man!

Let’s say our big picture question and answer.

What makes Jesus different? Jesus is fully God and fully man. By sending His Son into the world, God kept His promise 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.”

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

LEADER • If you could have dinner with any person from history, whom would you choose? [*Allow a few kids to share their ideas.*] Who do you think is the most famous person in history? Watch this.

- “Unit 19, Session 1” discussion starter video

Show the “Unit 19, Session 1” discussion starter video.

Then guide kids to discuss the following questions:

- Who is the most important person in history?
- What makes people famous?
- Why do we remember some people from history but not everybody?

LEADER • People may or may not agree on who is the most famous person in history, but Jesus is definitely the most important! God planned from before the beginning of time to send His Son into the world. God calls us to be part of His plan to make Jesus famous. Jesus is the most important, and He deserves to be made known. Only Jesus can save people from sin.

Sing (4 minutes)

• “The Savior We Need”
song

LEADER • Reading the Bible and realizing that God was working out His plan to save sinners all along makes me want to praise Him. Will you sing with me? Sing together “The Savior We Need.”

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to small groups.

LEADER • Lord God, thank You for Your Word! Thank You for showing us Your plan from the very beginning. You kept Your promises to Abraham and David, and blessed the whole world by sending Your Son. Help us to tell others about Jesus—the most important Person in history! Amen.

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. Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

Small Group LEADER

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

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

• Key Passage Poster

Guide the kids to stand in a circle. Display the key passage poster and guide them to read 1 Timothy 1:15. Then choose one kid to say the first word of the verse. Move around the circle; the next kid should say the second word, the next kid should say the third word, and so on. Repeat the key passage several times.

SAY • A man named Paul wrote these words. Does anyone remember whom Paul was writing to? (*Timothy*) Spend some time this week learning this verse. Memorizing God's Word helps us remember what is true.

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

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

Write the following names on separate index cards. Create two sets: *Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Rahab, Boaz, Ruth, Jesse, David, Solomon, Josiah, Joseph, Mary.*

Mix up the cards and position them facedown on the floor or a table. Invite kids to play a matching game. The first player will turn over two cards. If the names match, he may collect the cards. Then ask him a review question. If the cards do not match, he should turn over the cards and

another player takes a turn.

When kids answer all the review questions, repeat questions with multiple answers (names of kings, women in Jesus' family, and so forth) until kids match all the cards.

1. Who created Jesus? (*God the Son has always existed. No one created Him; Heb. 1:2*)
2. Who were Jesus' parents on earth? (*Mary and Joseph, Matt. 1:20-21*)
3. Who is Jesus' true Father? (*God the Father, Luke 1:35*)
4. Name a king in Jesus' family. (*David, Solomon, Jehoshaphat, Uzziah, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Josiah; Matt. 1:7-10*)
5. ***How is Jesus different? Jesus is fully God and fully man.***
6. Whom did God promise that his family would be as numerous as the stars? (*Abraham, Gen. 15:5*)
7. Whom did God promise that a king in his family would rule forever? (*David, 2 Sam. 7:16*)
8. Name a woman in Jesus' family tree. (*Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba/Uriah's wife, Mary; Matt. 1:3-6, 16*)

SAY • Jesus is God's Son, but God gave Him a family on earth. **Jesus' earthly family included Abraham, David, and others.** Over hundreds of years, generation after generation, God had been working out His plan to send Jesus into the world. No one else who was ever born was like Jesus! ***What makes Jesus different? Jesus is fully God and fully man,*** and He came to earth to save people from sin.

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Bible story relay

Form two or three teams of kids. Instruct teams to line up

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.



- chalkboard or dry erase board
- chalk or markers
- stopwatch or timer
- Bibles, 1 per team

single file several feet away from the chalkboard. Draw a column on the board for each team. Explain that teams will play three rounds of a game.

- *Round 1—Family Names.* Give each team a Bible and guide them to find Matthew 1:1-17. Players should take turns running to the board and writing one name of someone in today's Bible story. Award one point for each name written in three minutes.
- *Round 2—Big Picture Answer.* Ask the big picture question: ***How is Jesus different?*** The first player on each team will run to the board and write the first word of the big picture answer. Then the second player will write the second word, and so on. Challenge teams to complete the big picture answer: ***Jesus is fully God and fully man.*** Award one point for each correct word written in 90 seconds.
- *Round 3—Speed Round.* Players will take turns running to the board and drawing a star in their team's column. Teams earn one point for each star drawn in two minutes.

SAY • **Jesus' earthly family included Abraham, David, and others.** Jesus is unlike anyone else in His family. ***How is Jesus different?*** [*Invite kids to respond.*] That's right. ***Jesus is fully God and fully man.***

Through Jesus, God kept His promises to Abraham and David. Do you remember what God promised Abraham about his family? (*God promised that Abraham's family would be as numerous as the stars, Gen. 15:5*)

OPTION 2: Class family album

Instruct kids to open their Bibles to Matthew 1:1-17. Allow kids to work individually or in pairs to create an album about Jesus' family tree. Use the "Jesus' Family Members" printable to assign each kid or pair of kids a person from the Bible story. For additional people, use the blank printable.

Provide markers or crayons. Encourage kids to refer to their Bibles or the small group timeline to recall details about each person. Instruct kids to write a few sentences and to draw pictures of the people in Jesus' family.

When kids finish, collect the pages to hang on a wall or display in a folder or notebook. If time allows, invite kids to share their album pages with the rest of the group.

SAY • God promises that everyone who believes in Jesus can become part of His family too. [*See John 1:11-13.*]

It doesn't matter who your parents are, who your grandparents are, or even who your great-grandparents are! Jesus said, "Whoever does the will of My Father in heaven, that person is My brother and sister and mother" (Matt. 12:50).

When we look to God as our heavenly Father, He adopts us into His family.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Encourage kids to draw themselves in a picture that includes Jesus and any friends or family members who are believers.

Pray, thanking God for bringing Jesus into the world so that we can be saved from sin and adopted into His family.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "The Big Picture" on the activity page. Direct kids to move through the maze, passing through words that answer the big picture question.

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- "Jesus' Family Members" printable
- markers or crayons
- Small Group Timeline or Big Story Circle (optional)

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

- pencils
- Journal Page
- "The Big Picture" activity 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.