

### Scripture Text

Matthew 1.1-17

### Context

Matthew 1 is the opening chapter not only of Matthew's gospel, but of all the New Testament. It begins by introducing to us the central figure of the bible, one who was promised in the Old Testament and then revealed in the New. This is the person of Jesus Christ, as Matthew explains in verse 1. Matthew goes on to give us Jesus' genealogy, which is an ancient way of establishing a persons credentials. What we discover about Jesus' genealogy is incredibly revealing about who He is and what He has come to do.

### Observation and Meaning

- Who is Matthew's gospel all about? (v1?)
- Before he gets to the genealogy, Matthew mentions Jesus as being the son of two people. Who are these two, and why does Matthew single them out to us?
- What were the promises made to both Abraham and David, and how do these help us understand who Jesus is?
- Jesus's genealogy includes some very surprising people, including women such as Tamar, Rahab, the wife of Uriah, Gentiles (far from God's people), and notorious sinners. Why do you think they are included? What is God trying to tell us about who Jesus is and what he's come to do through their inclusion?

### Big Idea

Jesus Christ has come in fulfillment of God's promises and shows us the kind of blessing his rule will be to the nations.

### Connecting to the Bible's storyline

God has made many promises to His people throughout the bible, all of which are fulfilled in Jesus, who we are introduced to in this passage.

### Sermon Outline

1. God's promises are true (v1)
2. God's promises are found in Jesus (v1)
3. God's promises are for people like you and I (v2-17)

### Application

- How do you think you would live differently if you steadfastly believed (never doubting) in all of God's promises? Which particular promises do you think would help you the most (if you fully believed them?)
- How does the fulfillment (through Jesus) of some of God's outrageous promises in the OT strengthen your faith in God's promises to you?
- How does the inclusion of both outrageous sinners and people disregarded by society in Jesus' genealogy encourage you that you too can be included in God's family by faith in Him?

## Guide for Study Leaders

Use the C.O.M.A. (Context, Observation, Meaning, Application) method to work through the biblical text.

### Context

Pay attention to the surrounding verses, paragraphs, chapters, events, etc. to see how this passage fits within the context of this particular book of the Bible.

Note how this passage fits within the larger storyline of the whole Bible, i.e. how God is saving a people through Jesus Christ to live under his rule in his place.

### Observation & Meaning

Make careful observations of the biblical text. Notice details such as linking words (eg. "for", "if", "therefore"), repetition, dialogue, narrative, OT quotations, etc.

To understand the meaning of the biblical text, we need to discern the author's purpose or intent: Why is the biblical author writing this?

Helpful questions to ask include:

Who is writing and to whom?

What is the situation of the author and of the readers?

Are we made aware of any problems that need to be addressed?

Are there any repeated themes, or a single idea that holds everything together?

### Application

Apply God's word to the heart. Move beyond merely addressing circumstances and behaviour by asking good "heart" questions. For example: Why do we do what we do? What do we really desire?

Always connect the gospel to application. For example, what difference does knowing Christ make to our obedience to God?

Ask what the passage teaches us about God, ourselves, salvation in Christ, the church, the world, etc.