

March 1, 2020  
Whole Group



## 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.

## 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,

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Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Jesse, David, Solomon, and Josiah.  
God sent Jesus to earth to save people from their sins.

***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.*

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## **Small Group OPENING** *(before Large Group...)*

### **Welcome time**

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to 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.

### **Session starter** (10 minutes) — **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.

### **Alike and different** *(for the older kids)*

There will be a couple sets of "Alike and Different Cards" so kids can play in smaller groups if you have a large group.

Distribute one set to each group. 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*

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*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.

**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.

**Transition to large group...**

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## Small Group LEADER *(after Large Group...)*

### **Activity choice** (10 minutes) — Compare and contrast

Draw a large Venn Diagram on the white board. Label one circle *Jesus* and the other *Us*. 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 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 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.**

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**Activity choice** (10 minutes) — 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.

Then give each child a blank album page to draw a picture of themselves and any family members who know and love Jesus.

**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.

**Prayer** (5 minutes)

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