



Group Guide

Genealogy of the King

November 30, 2025

Main Passage: Matthew 1:1-17

Theological Theme

Jesus is the Messiah the Old Testament prophesied would come.

Introduction

- ❓ Have you ever looked into your own genealogy?
- ❓ Did you find anything interesting or surprising?

1. From Abraham to David (Matthew 1:1-6)

So . . . why genealogy? While modern readers are sometimes tempted to skip over passages of genealogy, this trail of historical figures builds a foundation that points to Jesus as the Jewish Messiah whose arrival was prophesied in the Old Testament.

- ❓ Why might Matthew have begun his gospel account with a genealogy? What does this tell us about God?
- ❓ What names stand out to you from this list? What significant women are mentioned here?
- ❓ Application: God uses unexpected people for His purposes. How has He used you unexpectedly?

2. From David to the Babylonian Exile (Matthew 1:7-11)

The most prominent figure in this section of genealogy is King David. David was the second king of Israel and is a very significant figure in Israelite history. David wasn't perfect. In fact, he made some colossal mistakes that had devastating consequences, but he was known for being faithful. In scary situations, when his back was against the wall, when time was of the essence and it would have been easier to do his own thing, when he was treated unfairly, when things were going wrong, when he failed . . . David trusted and turned to God. Scripture calls David a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14), and he became the benchmark of faithfulness and obedience by which future kings of Israel would be measured.

- ❓ What names do you recognize in this section of genealogy? What do you know about this portion of Israel's history?
- ❓ Why would David have been an important figure to mention here?
- ❓ Application: God used David despite his famous sin against Bathsheba. What does that tell you about how God can use you, no matter your past?

3. From the Exile to the Messiah (Matthew 1:12-17)

This final group of genealogy traces Jesus's lineage through the exile to Jesus's birth. Jesus's ancestors were exiled to Babylon because of their choice to sin and turn their hearts away from God. Yet, still their hope was not lost. God would use even this to bring about the promised one. Matthew clearly named Jesus as the Messiah in this section.

- ❓ What stands out to you in this portion of genealogy?
- ❓ Who are some of the names you don't recognize? What does the fact that they are included here tell you about God?
- ❓ Application: How has God been faithful in your life? How can looking back on your past remind you of this truth?

Conclusion

- ❓ What does this passage teach us about God's promises?
- ❓ What does this genealogy reveal about God's heart for inclusion and redemption?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about who God can use to accomplish His good plans? What does that mean in your life?