



**Carrollton Christian
Fellowship**

Matthew 1 Theme: Understanding Jesus as the Promised King and His Family Tree

Day 1: Heritage and Purpose

Read: Matthew 1:1-17

Focus Verse: "Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah." — Matthew 1:17

Devotional:

Jesus' genealogy is much more than a list of names; it's a story of God's faithfulness over generations. From Abraham to David, and down to Jesus, each person played a role in God's plan to bring salvation to the world. This genealogy shows us that God has a purpose for each of our lives, no matter where we come from.

Reflection Questions:

1. Do you think your background or family history defines your future? How does knowing Jesus' genealogy change your perspective?
2. How might God use your unique story and background for His greater purpose?

Prayer:

"Dear God, thank you for the reminder that you have a purpose and plan for my life. Help me to trust in your faithfulness and see how my life fits into your greater story. Amen."

Day 2: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Roles

Read: Matthew 1:3-5

Focus Verse: "Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse." — Matthew 1:3-5

Devotional:

Tamar, Rahab, and Ruth were not perfect, yet they were key figures in Jesus' family tree. Tamar showed boldness, Rahab demonstrated faith, and Ruth epitomized loyalty. Their stories remind us that God can use anyone, regardless of their past, to fulfill His divine purposes.

Reflection Questions:

1. How do the stories of Tamar, Rahab, and Ruth inspire you regarding your own potential to be used by God?
2. Have you ever felt like your past disqualified you from being used by God? How does today's devotional challenge that thought?

Prayer:

"Dear God, thank you for showing us that you use ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Help me to trust that you can use my life, despite my imperfections, for your glory. Amen."

Day 3: The Miracle of Jesus' Birth

Read: Matthew 1:18-21

Focus Verse: "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." — Matthew 1:21

Devotional:

The birth of Jesus is a miraculous event that fulfilled many prophecies. God sent an angel to assure Joseph that the child Mary was carrying was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Jesus' birth marks the beginning of our salvation story, highlighting that God's plans often surpass our understanding.

Reflection Questions:

1. How do you react to the miraculous nature of Jesus' birth?
2. Do you believe that God can do miraculous things in your life as well? Why or why not?

Prayer:

"Dear God, thank you for the miracle of Jesus' birth and the salvation He brings. Help me to open my heart to the miracles you want to perform in my life and to trust in your extraordinary plans. Amen."

Day 4: Immanuel – God with Us

Read: Matthew 1:22-23

Focus Verse: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God with us.'" — Matthew 1:23

Devotional:

Jesus being called 'Immanuel' means God is with us. This is not just a name; it's a promise. Sometimes, life can feel overwhelming, but knowing that God is with us in every situation provides deep comfort and hope. Jesus is not distant; He is present in our daily lives.

Reflection Questions:

1. When have you felt alone and needed the reassurance that God is with you?
2. How does the name 'Immanuel' change your perspective on facing challenges in your life?

Prayer:

"Dear God, thank you for the promise that you are always with me. Help me to feel your presence in my daily life and to lean on you during difficult times. Amen."

Day 5: Embracing God's Plan for Your Life

Read: Jeremiah 29:11

Focus Verse: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Devotional:

Just as God had a grand plan for Jesus' life, He has a unique plan for yours. It's a plan that includes hope and a future. Trusting in God's plan means surrendering our own limited understanding and allowing Him to guide us. Embrace His plan, knowing it will lead to a fulfilling future.

Reflection Questions:

1. What are some dreams or plans you have for your future?
2. How can you trust God more with your future plans and uncertainties?

Prayer:

"Dear God, thank you for having a plan for my life that includes hope and a future. Help me to trust you more and surrender my dreams and plans to your perfect will. Lead me in your ways and fulfill your purpose in my life. Amen."

Conclusion:

The story of Jesus' genealogy and birth shows us God's faithfulness, His miraculous power, and His presence in our lives. Remember that just as each person in Jesus' family tree had a role, you too are an important part of God's plan. Trust Him, and let Him guide you in your journey.