

From Adam to Jesus

Bible Story: Matthew 1; Luke 3; John 1

Key Passage: ¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

1 Peter 5:10

Big Picture Question: Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth.

Bottom Line: Nothing could stop God's plan to save the world.

Christ Connection: *Jesus came to earth as a human. 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 sins and adopts them into God's family.*

LARGE GROUP: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways.

Say This:

Since the beginning of creation, God's plan was working in the lives of His people. Adam had kids, who had kids, who had kids, and so on all the way down the line. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Judah were all Jesus' ancestors. Ruth had Obed, who had Jesse, whose son David became king. King David and his son Solomon, and Solomon's sons and grandsons and great-grandsons were all leading up to the perfect King, Jesus.

Jesus' family was chosen and guided by God in a special way. God told prophets to pay attention to this family because eventually this family led to the birth of Jesus, God the Son. Jesus' family line proved He is Messiah.

As we get to our story, I have a big picture question that I want you to think about. Is Jesus God or human? It may seem like an easy question at first, but I want you to think about not just what the right answer is, but what that answer means. Our story should help shed some light on things.

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So let's answer our question: Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus had a fully human family just like you and I, because Jesus is fully human. However, unlike us, Jesus is also fully God. As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human. Jesus has always existed with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus was raised by Joseph, but His Father is God.

Jesus' family was not a list of perfect people. All of Jesus' ancestors were sinners, just like we are and just like our ancestors were. Even so, God used them in His miraculous plan to bring forgiveness to sinners. God can use us and our families in incredible ways too, especially when we have faith in Jesus and obey Him out of love.

Next Steps

As we continue our journey through the Bible, it is important to always remember that we are studying the bible so that we will grow to love, follow, and obey Jesus. We aren't just learning to know things. We are learning so that we will do things that honor God. What your next step?

You can talk about this in your group, but begin to think about it now:

- Believe- believe that you are a sinner who needs a Savior and Jesus is your Savior because He died for you and rose again.
- Get baptized- show your faith by getting dipped back in the water and raised out of the water.
- Read your Bible and pray- read your Bible and pray every day so that you get to know God personally
- Serve others- serve others at home, at school, and at church.

If you need help identifying and taking your next step please talk to you small group leader or me. Pray, ask God to show you your next step and then take it.

Christ connection

Jesus came to earth as a human. 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 sins and adopts them into God's family.

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 40 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

1. Bible Review and Skills

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

Distribute Bibles. Guide your group to open their Bibles to Matthew 1 together. Point out that the Book of Matthew is the first book in the New Testament and the first book for the four gospels- Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Explain that the gospels tell the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Choose a volunteer to read Matthew 1:1

What You Say: "The first words of the New Testament show that God kept the promise He made throughout the Old Testament. Since sin entered the world, God promised to send a Rescuer.

God said this Savior would come from the family of Abraham (Gen22:18) and the family of King David (Jer 23:5) Jesus was called "the Son of David" and "the Son of Abraham." Jesus family line proved He is the Messiah.

2. Discussion Questions:

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

- Where was Jesus before He was born as a human baby? (*with God the Father, John 1:1*)
- Who were three of the women named in Jesus' family line? (*Rahab, Ruth, Mary; Matt*

1:5;16)

- Who was Jesus' earthly father? (*Joseph, Luke 3:23*)
- Why is it important to understand who was part of Jesus' family? *Guide kids to understand that many of God's promises about the coming Messiah had to do with specific families. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were promised blessings to bless the world; and David was promised a descendant who would reign forever. Seeing Jesus' family line helps us understand that Jesus is the Messiah.*
- How do you feel knowing Jesus' family was not perfect? *Discuss the idea that God uses imperfect people to bring about His perfect plans. Jesus' family was not perfect, our families are not perfect, and we are not perfect. Even so, God can use us in His plan.*
- How can we be a part of God's family? *Remind kids that Jesus' death and resurrection made the way for us to be forgiven of sin and adopted into God's family. Even though people in God's family are not perfect, we can love one another and help one another with God's power and help. Someday all believers will be perfected at Jesus' return and the restoration of the world.*
- What kinds of people are in Jesus' family line? *Invite kids to share their observations. Point out that God uses all types of people in His plans. God made Abraham a father even in his old age. God used Jacob even though he dressed in his brother's clothes to get a blessing meant for Esau. Rahab hid the Israelite spies. Ruth was a Moabite who followed her mother-in law back to Judah. David was a shepherd boy. Solomon asked for wisdom. God made Josiah a king at 8 years old. (Eph 1:4-5)*
- How is Jesus different than the other people in His family line? *Emphasize that as the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human. Unlike the other people in His family line, Jesus never sinned (Heb 4:15).*
- What does it mean to be adopted into God's family? *Lead kids to recognize that adoption describes our new relationship with God. We gain all of the responsibilities and privileges of being a child of God. God gives His Spirit to lead His children. We live for Him, and we will live with Him forever. (Gal 4:6-7)*

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, balloon

- **What You Do:**
Ask kids to say the Memory Verse with you 1 time.
- Blow up the balloon. As you are blowing the balloon and tying it, ask kids to form a circle.
- You are going to toss the balloon in the air and kids need to keep it in the air as you say the memory verse.
- Each bounce of the balloon is one word.
- Variation: See if you can say the whole memory verse while the balloon is in the air.

What You Say: "Have you ever gone through something really difficult and you weren't sure if you would ever get through it? Our memory verse reminds us that God will restore us

and strengthen us. God knows that we are weak, but our weaknesses point us back to our need for Jesus. When life is hard we know that we can't do anything apart from God.

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Journal page (1 for each kid), markers/crayons, Bibles

What You Do:

- Distribute journal pages and pencils.
- Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:
- **What do we learn about following God from today's passage?**
- **What is one thing that God is teaching you right now?**
- **Where is one area that you would like to be closer to God?**
- **What is your next step to keep loving, following and obeying Jesus? (Believe, Baptism)**
- When your kids identify their next steps, take note and circle back to them so that you can help them and give them/their parents resources to help them take their next step.
- As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas and write in your small group journal.

What You Say: Lord God, thank You for Your Word! You kept Your promises to Abraham and David, and You blessed the whole world by sending Your Son. Help us to tell others about Jesus- the most important Person in history. We love You. Amen.