

# Adventure Club

A weekly lesson for children, young people, parents and grandparents, from the GCI Watford Church.  
Number 30, 16th October 2020

## Jesus' Family Tree



The following needs group participation. Start by saying: I want to read to you what some people say is a 'boring' section of scripture! So to make it a little easier to understand, I've added some explanatory notes to it. Also, I want you to help me with some actions. I'll give you some hand signals along the way and I want you to respond according to the sign I give you. For example, if I give you a thumbs-up sign 👍, I want you to clap and cheer. If I give you a thumbs-down sign 👎, I want you to hiss and boo. If I hold my hands open and upwards, as well as shrugging my shoulders, you can do the same and looking confused say HUH! 😐 (You may wish to practise a few times before reading the passage below.)

This is the family history of Jesus Christ 👤. He came from the family of David 👤. David came from the family of Abraham 👤. Abraham was the father of Isaac 👤. Isaac was the father of Jacob, he was the one who took his brother's birth-right 👤. Jacob was the father of Judah. Judah and his brothers sold Joseph into slavery 👤. Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah, their mother was Tamar 😐. Perez was the father of Hezron. Hezron was the father of Ram. Ram was the father of Amminadab. Amminadab was the father of Nahshon. Nahshon was the father of Salmon 😐. Salmon was the father of Boaz, who was gentleman 👤. Boaz's mother was Rahab who was a prostitute 👤. Boaz was the father of Obed 😐. Obed's mother was Ruth whose story is told in a book of the Bible bearing her name. Ruth was a noble lady 👤. Obed was the father of Jesse 😐. Jesse was the father of King David 👤. David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah whom David had murdered 👤. Solomon was a wise man 👤. However, he had many pagan wives 👤. Solomon was the father of Rehoboam. Rehoboam had 18 wives 👤. Rehoboam was the father of Abijah. Abijah was the father of Asa 😐. Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat who was a king who mostly set a good example 👤. Jehoshaphat was the father of Jehoram 😐. Jehoram was the ancestor of Uzziah who became proud and disobedient 👤. Uzziah was the father of Jotham who was generally a good king 👤. Jotham was the father of Ahaz who was very bad ruler and an idolater 👤. Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah, he cleansed the temple and helped to re-establish the kingdom 👤. Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh, he ruled for 55 years and sadly shed much innocent blood 👤. Manasseh was the father of Amon 😐. Amon was the father of Josiah who did right in the eyes of the Lord 👤. Josiah was the father of Jehoiachin who was the father of Shealtiel 😐. Shealtiel was the grandfather of Zerubbabel who was a good governor 👤. Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud. Abiud was the father of Eliakim. Eliakim was the father of Azor. Azor was the father of Zadok. Zadok was the father of Akim. Akim was the father of Eliud. Eliud was the father of Eleazar. Eleazar was the father of Matthan. Matthan was the father of Jacob (not the one we spoke of earlier) 😐. Jacob was the father of the carpenter who lived in Nazareth called Joseph 👤. Joseph was the husband of Mary 👤. As we all know Mary gave birth to Jesus 👤. And we call Jesus: Lord of Lords and King of Kings. 👤 👤 👤 😊

Adapted from a chapter in *More Hot Illustrations for Youth Talks* by Wayne Rice

### Lesson:

The Bible is not afraid to show that there are all kinds of people in Jesus' family tree. There are good people, bad people and people we know practically nothing about. Some were heroes of the faith and were dedicated to God. Others, however, were sinners on a grand scale: murderers, prostitutes and all kinds of unsavoury characters. However, many were just ordinary people like you and me. God did not pick the best people in the world to produce the Messiah. Instead, he had a habit of picking people with flaws. So, if you feel flawed, that's OK. In fact, that's even better because God wants flawed people to depend on His strength. God can use anybody, including you, to accomplish His will and make a difference in the world.

# Jesus' Regal Genealogy

As Recorded in Matthew



King David

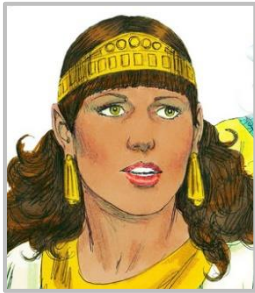
'The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son (descendant) of David, the son (descendant) of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers [who became the twelve tribes of Israel]. Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez was the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram. Ram was the father of Aminadab, Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon. Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab, Boaz was the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse. Jesse was the father of David the king.



King Solomon

David was the father of Solomon by Bathsheba who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon was the father of Rehoboam,



Bathsheba

Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa. Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah. Uzziah was the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah. Josiah became the father of Jeconiah [also called Coniah and Jehoiachin] and his brothers, at the time of the deportation (exile) to Babylon.



Tamar

After the deportation to Babylon: Jeconiah became the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel was the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor. Azor was the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud. Eliud was the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah (Christ).

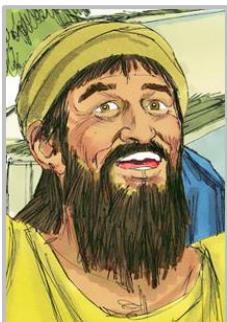
So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen; from David to the Babylonian deportation (exile), fourteen generations; and from the Babylonian deportation to the Messiah, fourteen generations.'

Matthew 1:1-17, Amp.

## Notes on the Genealogy Found in Matthew

- Jesus's genealogy in Matthew's regal line goes forward starting from Abraham and ending with Jesus.
- Matthew breaks Israel's history into three sets of 14 generations. The middle 14 are the 'regal' line — 'the royal or crowned ancestors'. *Companion Bible*
- There were probably more generations than those listed here. Genealogies often compressed history, meaning that not every generation of ancestors was specifically listed. Thus the phrase *the father of* can also be translated *the ancestor of*.
- Four women are in this list: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba, two Hebrews and two Gentiles.

## 46 People



Hezron

'In the first 17 verses of Matthew we meet 46 people whose lifetimes span about 2,000 years. All were ancestors of Jesus, but they varied considerably in personality, spirituality and experience. Some were heroes of faith like Abraham, Isaac, Ruth and David. Some had shady reputations like Rahab and Tamar. Many were very ordinary like Hezron, Ram, Nahshon and Akim. And others were evil like Manasseh and Abijah. God's work in history is not limited by human failures or sins, and he works through ordinary people. Just as God used all kinds of people to bring his Son into the world, he uses all kinds today to accomplish his will. And God wants to use you.'



Manasseh

Life Application Study Bible, page 1631.



## Who Would've Thought?



Rahab

'Character number one is a prostitute.

Character number two is her son. By the time we meet him he is wealthy, powerful, and single. (We wonder if his bachelorhood has anything to do with being the son of a prostitute.)

Character number three is a foreign widow in a clannish culture. Everything about her is different. Speaks with an accent. Wears a different name. Eats different food. Has a different way. Her only friend is her mother-in-law who happens also to be a widow and happens to be:

Character number four. She is older than the first widow. Too old to have kids. When her two sons die and her husband dies, she is left alone. With only a foreigner as a friend.



Ruth

Four people. Each rejected. Each alone. Four frazzled strings in the bottom of the knitting basket. Left untouched, awaiting the toss of the Master-weaver. But He doesn't discard them. He picks them up and weaves them together. The result? The unmarried son of the prostitute meets the foreign widow who left her homeland to accompany her mother-in-law. The mother-in-law recognizes the bachelor as a relative and urges her daughter-in-law to make herself available. She does, the two marry, and the single bachelor has a wife, the young widow has a husband and the older widow has a grandson and we have a story of providential romance. Such is the story of Ruth. You'll recognize her as the younger widow. The older is named Naomi. Boaz is the son of the prostitute. And the prostitute? Well, she isn't mentioned in this book. But she is mentioned in, of all places, the Gospel of Matthew. Read the words in the parentheses of Matthew 1:5. Go ahead and flip over there, I'll wait for you. Did you see it? Salmon was the father of Boaz. (Boaz's mother was Rahab.) Who would've thought? A harlot on Jesus' family tree. But these kind of things happen in the Bible. Aren't we glad they do? Aren't we glad the Master-weaver has a place in His plan for each of us?' Max Lucado. From *The Lucado Life Lessons Study Bible*, page 340.



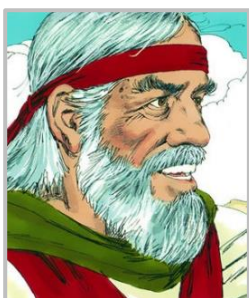
Naomi

## Jesus' Natural Genealogy

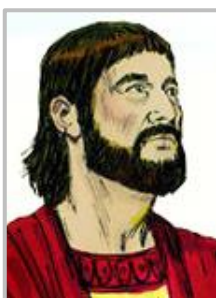
As Recorded in Luke

'When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being, as was supposed, the son of Joseph, the son [by marriage] of Eli, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Hesli, the son of Naggai, the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim, the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon, the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Heber, the son of Shelah, the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel, the son of Cainan, the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.'

Luke 3:23-38, Amp.



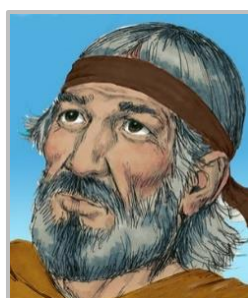
Methuselah



Shem



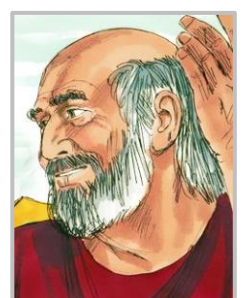
Arphaxad



Mahalaleel



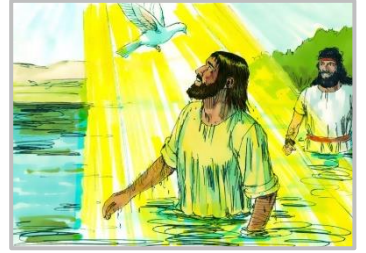
Amminadab



Noah

## Notes on the Genealogy Found in Luke

- Jesus's genealogy in Luke's natural line goes backwards starting with Jesus, then to Joseph, then to Eli, his father-in-law, and then all the way back to Adam and to God who created Adam.
- Luke's genealogy contains no women, not even Mary!
- Interestingly in the two verses preceding Luke's human genealogy of Jesus, a heavenly voice says who Jesus really is — the Son of God. As Jesus 'was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son'. Luke 3:21-22, NIV
- We know that Joseph was not the father of Jesus, but he was his legal father. The genealogies in Matthew and Luke unite in Joseph and they both take Joseph back to King David. Several scriptures say Jesus would descend from David, for example, 2 Samuel 7:12-16 and Isaiah 11:1.
- Luke's genealogy goes back to Adam, showing that Jesus is related to all human beings. As Luke primarily wrote to the Gentiles, this is consistent with Luke's picture of Jesus being the Saviour of the whole world.



Below is a *Day by Day* study (found on the GCI website) for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept. 2020. It is by Hilary Buck (right) who pastors the GCI Lewes congregation.

### What a Way to Start a Book

'The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ,  
the son of David, the son of Abraham.' Matthew 1:1, ESV



If you start reading Matthew from the beginning, what do you find? Seventeen verses of genealogy before you even get into the story. Unless you are a follower of 'Who Do You Think You Are' or into search engines to trace your ancestors, it probably doesn't strike you as a best-selling way to start an account.

I suppose nowadays lineage only matters to the Royal Family, but in those days it was important, and Matthew is establishing Jesus' background, proving that he was both Abraham and David's descendant.

Nowadays when people write CVs, they set out to state what their qualifications are for the job and they often leave out what they do not wish anyone to know. In the same way a genealogy was usually constructed to impress. But take a look at those verses and see who's included: we've got Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, names we are familiar with. We know about Judah, Boaz, David and Solomon. But we also have Rehoboam, whose arrogance caused the nation to split, Uzziah who in his pride tried to usurp the priesthood, and Manasseh, an evil man who among other sins 'shed so much innocent blood that he filled Jerusalem from end to end'. Are these the names you would include if you wanted to impress the nation of Israel that this was the great King, the inheritor of the throne, the righteous One that all of Israel longed for?

And if the inclusion of some very dodgy kings of Israel is not enough, now also take a look at another thing. Matthew has started to turn the world upside down: there are four women listed. This was a patriarchal society. They shouldn't be there. Not only that, but look at who they were – three Gentiles: Tamar, Rahab and Ruth — two Canaanites and one Moabite. Bathsheba is there, simply referred to as the wife of Uriah.

So what is Matthew telling us? Most of the male ancestors of Jesus were moral failures in some way or other, and some were plain evil. Putting it all together we have liars, thieves, murderers, adulterers, incestuous relationships, prostitutes, pagan worshippers, self-promoters, dictators and racial outsiders, God-rejecters and a whole lot more. Yet they are all part of Jesus' family. What an encouraging opening to a gospel account. Jesus' goodness is not corrupted by unholy behaviour, or who his ancestors were. His righteousness is there for us, no matter what our past, our race or our gender. The all-embracing love of God for everyone is clearly set out in these 17 verses, like an opening trumpet call to the life and work of the Son of God in our world.

### Prayer

Thank you Father, for sending your Son, who is not ashamed to be part of the human family,  
no matter who we are or what we have done. Amen

See if you can memorize these words:

‘Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying,

heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove.

And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” ’ Luke 3:21-22, *NIV*

## Word Search

DAVID SOLOMON  
ABRAHAM REHOBOAM  
ISAAC ABIJAH  
JACOB JEHOSEPHAT  
PEREZ JORAM  
ZERAH UZZIAH  
TAMAR AHAZ  
HEZRON HEZEKIAH  
AMINADAB JECONIAH  
NAHSHON SHEALTIEL  
SALMON ABIHUD  
BOAZ ELIAKIM  
OBED ZADOK  
RUTH ELEAZAR  
JESSE JOSEPH  
BATHSHEBA MARY

B	O	A	L	E	I	T	L	A	E	H	S	E	Z
H	A	J	I	B	A	R	I	S	A	A	H	A	S
Z	A	D	O	M	I	K	A	I	L	E	Y	K	B
N	A	H	S	H	O	M	K	M	A	R	B	O	A
B	O	A	S	J	O	E	O	D	A	U	U	D	D
C	B	R	Z	M	Z	N	B	M	J	T	E	A	A
T	O	D	Z	E	A	J	O	S	E	P	H	Z	N
M	A	U	H	E	R	R	N	M	C	A	A	S	I
A	S	H	I	J	H	E	O	B	O	L	H	O	M
R	U	I	P	E	U	R	P	J	N	L	B	A	A
I	U	B	R	A	S	N	U	O	I	B	O	A	S
Z	A	A	B	E	H	S	H	T	A	B	I	S	I
D	O	B	J	I	H	S	E	H	H	Z	D	A	S
I	Z	E	R	A	H	O	O	J	A	E	A	B	A
V	A	I	O	A	C	B	B	H	B	I	N	H	H
A	O	B	N	J	H	O	B	O	E	O	Z	I	A
D	B	M	A	R	O	A	B	O	A	J	A	Z	Q
R	A	Z	A	E	L	E	M	N	B	M	A	B	U

Pictures are courtesy of:

Day by Day and Hilary Buck: GCI. All the other pictures and photos are courtesy of: [freebibleimages.org](http://freebibleimages.org), with very special thanks to the artist Jim Pagett, Sweet Publishing.

Bible abbreviations: *Amp.*: Amplified Bible. *ESV*: English Standard Version. *NIV*: New International Version.

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