

4. Of these fourteen descendants of David, only seven are remembered in any sense or for any length of time as good and faithful leaders: Solomon, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Uzziah, Jotham, Hezekiah, and Josiah. What does the parade of evil kings in Jesus' genealogy tell us about God's faithfulness to his covenant?

**SERIES:** The Rescue Begins

**SERMON 1:** "Why Unlocking the Secrets of Your Family Tree Unleashes New Hope"

**TEXT:** Matthew 1:1-17

**DATE:** March 17/18, 2018

Christ's family tree is \_\_\_\_\_ family tree. (Romans 4:11,16; 11:17)

5. The sermon focused on three ways unlocking the secrets of our spiritual family tree unleashes new hope in our lives. Which of the reasons resonates most with you?

### Why Unlocking the Secrets of our Spiritual Family Tree Unleashes New Hope

1. Because it shows there's always a chance for a \_\_\_\_\_ with God.  
Matthew 1:1

"Genealogy" = βίβλος γενεσεως (possessive form of word γενεσις) = book of \_\_\_\_\_ = the book of the \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 1: 1 This is the βίβλος γενέσεως (biblos geneleos) of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Genesis 2: 4 These are the βίβλος γενέσεως (biblos geneleos) of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

Genesis 5: 1 This is the βίβλος γενέσεως (biblos geneleos) of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God.

"Just as Genesis gave the story of one beginning—God's creation and covenant relations with Israel—so the Gospel of Matthew gives the story of a new beginning, the arrival of Jesus the Messiah and the kingdom of God." (Michael Wilkins)

This is the beginning of the culmination of the \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Why is it so important to remember that God is the only true hero of the story?

7. Looking back over this week's sermon and study, what one thing is most important for you to remember and apply?

2. Because it shows you are never outside of Christ's reach.  
Matthew 1:2-6

Four Unusual Women for an Ancient Jewish Genealogy

• T\_\_\_\_\_

• R\_\_\_\_\_

- R \_\_\_\_\_
- U \_\_\_\_\_

“If you believe in Jesus Christ, if you accept the good news, prostitute and king sit down as equals.” (Tim Keller)

3. Because it shows that in God’s plan for his family, they will always \_\_\_\_\_ failures and disasters.

Matthew 1:7-17

The whole story of these people and the people of God is a story of failure and disaster. All of it. God is the only hero in the story. He is the one that making sure his plan for humanity works in spite of the failures and disasters.

“And, as though to emphasize that Jesus isn’t just one member in an ongoing family, but actually the goal of the whole list, he arranges the genealogy into three groups of 14 names – or, perhaps we should say, into six groups of seven names. The number seven was and is one of the most powerful symbolic numbers, and to be born at the beginning of the seventh seven in the sequence is clearly to be the climax of the whole list. This birth, Matthew is saying, is what Israel has been waiting for for two thousand years.” (N.T. Wright)

#### Family Discussion Questions:

1. God kept his promises to Abraham and David to one day send a Savior. What does God’s faithfulness in keeping these promises show our family about God’s character?
2. Why is it important to remember that God is the only real hero of the Bible?
3. How should the genealogy impact our family’s understanding of Jesus’ birth?

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#### CHRIST CONNECTION

In the genealogy at the beginning of Matthew’s Gospel, we see how God’s plan of redemption is traced from Abraham to David and now to the birth of Jesus—the One who fulfills God’s promises to Abraham and David. Through his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus incorporates us into Abraham’s family of faith.

#### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week’s sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Why do you think so many people are interested in knowing their family tree?
3. Read Matthew 1:1-17. What does the inclusion of these particular women in the genealogy tell you about God’s desire to bless the whole world?

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#### THEOLOGICAL THEME

The Son of God will fulfill God’s ancient promises to his people.