

*Day 1*  
*March 19*



*Pray | God as I seek who I am, may I find my worth in you alone.*

“MY NAME IS GOD, and I will be handling things.”

From start to finish, that is what the Bible is: a giant reminder that God is in control. At many points in our lives, we will find ourselves wanting to know, “Who am I?” Many of these times are even well-defined: middle school, college, a mid-life crisis, a divorce, a job loss or even a death. Each of these things or times can bring this question to the forefront of what consumes our thoughts. The important thing for those who follow God is to remember that who we are needs to begin and end by remembering that God loved us so much he made the Earth for us and sent Jesus to come and save us, and he finally will come again to restore all things. Today’s passages can loosely be said to represent the beginning, the middle and finally the end of all things.



*Read | Genesis 1:1-2, 26-28; John 1:1-15; Revelation 1:1-8*



*Reflect | Spend time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

The Genesis passages were from the beginning of the Bible, specifically about God creating the world and people. In what ways does knowing this information help you to define who you are?

John’s passage rewinds us to the Genesis passage but expands our understanding by showing us Jesus’ place in it. Please re-read John 1:12-13. If you have received Jesus, what is the primary thing that now defines who you are, and how does that manifest itself in your life?

When we want something done right, we want it done by someone experienced. Revelation 1:8 reminds us that God was, is and will be. It is an un-beatable resume! Are there things that you have yet to trust God with handling in your life? If so, pray asking him to take over management today.

*Day 2*  
*March 20*



*Pray / Thank God for his legacy of faithfulness through generations.*

A LEGACY OF FAITHFULNESS.

Genealogies are funny things. Usually, the point of a genealogy is to boast of the purity or longevity of a family line. Sometimes the people who did not put the family into the right light were mysteriously absent from the record. When we look at the genealogy of Jesus Christ this week, we will see that no such erasures of persons occur; to the contrary, God leaves all the relatives in the list—even the bad ones—and goes out of the way to include foreigners and women! Perhaps this genealogy is less about the people whose names are listed in it and is more of a legacy of faithfulness, God’s faithfulness to those people and to us. Search a Bible app for “Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” You should see a lot of results to your query. The more you read the Bible and put stories to names the more everything fits together.



*Read / Matthew 1:1-17*



**Reflect** | *Spend time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

The God of the Old Testament chooses to identify himself as being the God of three people, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. What reasons can you think of for why it is important for you to also trace your faith identity back to these men?

If you saw the ending of a movie for which you had a grasp of the overall plot, you could imagine everything was flashbacks. Actually, seeing it from beginning to end makes sense of it. Matthew walks us back from Jesus to Abraham and then starts the “movie.” How have the stories of the names you recognize impacted your faith, and what more can you learn from them?

When you get to something in the Bible you are not familiar or comfortable with do you skip over it and go on? Or, if unfamiliar with the names listed, do you look them up to learn their place in the story? Doing the latter will, in most cases, reveal whose faithfulness all the Bible stories are about.

*Day 3*  
*March 21*



*Pray / Thank God that he accepts all who seek and believe in him.*

A LEGACY OF INCLUSION.

God forgives sinners. He wants to include them, men, women and children, in his promise to bless the world through Abraham and to experience the eternal king on David's throne. The entire genealogical list falls short of this possibility until Jesus. God's people may be Jewish, but those chosen to be blessed by his salvation know no limit. The women listed demonstrate this: Mary was Jewish, Tamar and Rahab were Canaanites, Uriah's wife (Bathsheba) was Hittite, and Ruth was Moabite. Tamar pretended to be a prostitute while Rahab was a prostitute. Bathsheba was King David's adulterous affair. Excluding Mary, the commonality of these women was not questionable pasts but rather being non-Jews who married into the Jewish faith. Their inclusion shows that women had a place in Jesus' past just as they will his future. It is also a reminder of God's promise that all nations would be blessed.



*Read / Matthew 1:3, 5-6, and 16*



*Reflect | Spend time reflecting on one or more of the following.*

Read Luke 19:1-10 where Jesus chooses to associate with a sinner like Zacchaeus or John 4:7-9 where Jesus chooses to talk to a Samaritan woman. When you share about God with others, are you inclusive or exclusive in whom you choose? God wants your witnessing to be more like Jesus'.

Past performance of investments are used to predict what may do well in the future because it did so previously. Jesus' ancestry shows God's promises coming true through the generations. Reading about it over 2000 years later means God is still at work. How does this strengthen your resolve to believe all God's promises?

Perhaps you know of someone, or are someone, who has believed God cannot forgive whatever your sin is or that he cannot accept you because race, religious heritage or some other "thing" makes you unacceptable. What hope can you find in those whom God included in his family tree for all to see?

*Day 4*  
*March 22*



**Pray** | *Praise God that with him even tragic failures are redeemable.*

**A LEGACY OF FAILURE.**

In 2 Chronicles, King Solomon reminds his people of God's promise to King David, that there will be a man before God on the throne of Israel without fail if he will walk in God's law. Sadly the legacy of David's line of kings was one of an almost constant downward sinful spiral away from God starting with David, accelerating with Solomon and his brothers and continuing to each successive generation. The list of Jesus' kingly ancestors is predominantly a listing of a fourteen-generation legacy of failure. This failure of human kings leads to the practical extinction of Israel except for a remnant in Babylonian exile. Thank God that Jesus breaks this cyclical legacy of failure once and for all. God's promises to deliver us do not depend on our faithfulness but upon his faithfulness! Jesus is the King of Kings who rules forever on David's throne because only he can walk in God's way, sinless!



**Read** | *Matthew 1:6-11*



**Reflect** | *Spend time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

Reading this list of ever-more-evil kings in the Davidic line, it should become obvious that God's promises are independent of both one's faith and biological ancestries. Which person alone does the fulfillment of God's promises depend upon based on the full genealogical list (found in Matthew 1:1-17)?

Josiah was a rare king who was not evil. He began a restoration of the temple that turned into an attempt to lead his people back to God. Even on the edge of impending judgment, God shows mercy to those who walk in his ways. Josiah learned, repented and acted upon God's words when he was made aware of them. What lessons can we take from this to apply to our own lives? (If you are interested in learning more about King Josiah, the full story is found in 2 Kings 22-23.)

Just as Jesus came from a long line of men and women, each of us comes from a long legacy of human failure. It started in the garden, and it will continue until God's final judgment. But as Jesus' genealogy shows us, it is only when God steps directly into our lives that we can be saved. How does realizing we need a Savior and finding that there is one in Jesus change us?

*Day 5*  
*March 23*



*Pray | Ask God for courage to do what he is asking you to do.*

A LEGACY OF SALVATION.

Jesus' genealogy started out with people who left everything to follow God and his promise, one that they would not see fulfilled in generations of their lifetimes. Once they arrived in the Promised Land, they cast off God, wanting instead a king to be like the very nations God had displaced for them. Those kings did all the things God warned them through Samuel that they would do. God's people seemed on the very edge of being lost forever, yet God helped some remain true to him even in Babylonian exile. Fortunately, to the God who always has been and always will be, forty-two generations is not too long for promises to be kept. It turns out that through it all God was waiting and watching and working on his timetable to send Jesus who is called Christ to save the world. In the end, the genealogy of Jesus is a legacy of salvation to those who believe in him!



*Read | [Matthew 1:12-17](#)*



*Reflect | Spend time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

America likes to claim we are a Christian nation. but our actions speak louder than our words. What are you doing to make sure you are instilling a legacy of faith in those around you?

What are you doing to show God's legacy of inclusion to those who are lost in a hurting world? Something to reflect on: Do others find you a judgmental, hypocritical or holier-than-thou Christian or an other's-first servant whose life is 24/7/365 consistent, exuding God's love every waking moment?

Consider whether or not you are part of a family genealogy that includes a legacy of God's salvation. If you are not, maybe God is prompting you to start that legacy today. Pray and ask God to forgive your sins and restore you to a right relationship with him. Start building a faith legacy today.

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