



Christmas Starts at Home (Hope)
Matthew 1:1, 18-25

*These questions are provided to lead the group in **applying** the teaching from Sunday. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in being a doer of God's Word. Challenge each other and be vulnerable as God works IN and THROUGH you together.*

1. Who has God placed on your heart to invite to The Table (1-Year Rally)? Have you had any table meetings yet (Church? Community? Cultures?)? If so, how's it going?
2. What do you know about your genealogy? What more would you like to learn about it? What do you know, if anything, of how your ancestors exercised their faith?
3. Matthew 1:1-17 is a long genealogy containing over 40 names in the line of Jesus. Most religions have gods that are not a part of this world. What is the significance of the Christmas story being rooted in an actual real family in history?
4. Read Matthew 1:18-25. Discuss the tension in the story, the response of Mary and Joseph, and their boldness. How are Mary and Joseph good examples of obeying even when we do not fully understand? Where do you need to apply this to your life?
5. In two verses in the passage (20, 24) we are told that Christmas came to us through a family "home." God used them, and he wants to use our families and homes, too, to bring hope to this world. What do you think and how do you feel about this?
6. The Matthew 1:1-17 genealogy that brought us Jesus is filled with flawed family members. (Jacob was a conniver, Rahab was a prostitute, Uriah's wife / Bathsheba was an adulterer, Manasseh was an evil king, etc.) How is this a picture of God's grace? How does this encourage your service? If God used them, why can't he use you?
7. Read Matthew 1:1. What is significant about Jesus being called "the son David"? (See 2 Samuel 7:8, 11-13.) Read Isaiah 11:10, Acts 13:22-23, and Romans 15:12. The prophet Isaiah saw the day coming when the Messiah would arise from the "Root of Jesse" (David's father). How would the nations respond? What would they find in the Savior?
8. How does Jesus draw people? In what ways has Jesus given you hope? Our hope is not in a "what" (a solution) but a "who" (a Savior)! How does this deepen our hope?
9. Read Matthew 1:23 and Galatians 4:4. In what ways is Jesus present with us today? Where do you see him working? How does this give our world hope?
10. Read Titus 2:13 and Revelation 21:4. How does the Second Coming of Jesus give you hope personally? In what ways is the world seeking this hope without even realizing it?
11. Mary and Joseph obeyed God, and Christmas came to their home. In what tangible ways can you give the hope of Christmas through your home during this season?
12. How can this group pray for you and our church this week? Pray for people to invite to your Church Table, Community Table, and Cultural Table.