



SERIES SUMMARY



We all have things in our family histories we aren't proud of. There are relatives or relationships that we find cringe-worthy. No other time of the year pulls those embarrassing incidences into the light like the holidays. But what if I told you that in the middle of the Christmas story we find more family drama than any of our unique family trees.

DISCUSSION GUIDE:

1. If you wanted your family life to sound perfect, how would you describe it?
2. If you were honest about all the drama in your family, how would you describe it?
3. Why did Matthew want to draw attention to those parts of Jesus's family tree?
4. What good values did your family instill in you that you want to always keep hold of?
5. How might God be using you in your family members' lives?

BOTTOM LINE

My family tree doesn't define me.

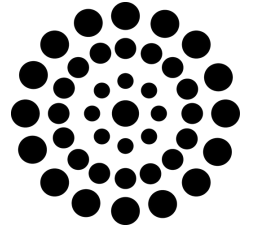
SCRIPTURE



"Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife..."

{Matthew 1 : 5-6}

Message Summary



Week One

Can you imagine being an early convert to Christianity? You were probably Jewish and knew the Old Testament stories well. Then, finally, your church gets a copy of Matthew's Gospel. You call all your new gentile friends together to hear it. Matthew starts by listing Jesus's family tree and immediately you start to worry. "Oh, please don't mention those embarrassing stories." But, boom, there they are. Matthew not only lists them, but he draws extra attention to them by sharing some extra details. Why would he do that? Now you have to explain it to your new friends. But as the family tree finishes up and Matthew launches into the account of Jesus's life, you realize that God doesn't reject us because of our family situations; he redeems them.

