



The King Is Born

Matthew 1:1–25



LESSON GOAL

Students will see God's grace in human history through the birth of the Son of God.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- Praise God for His sovereignty and grace in the lives of sinful men.
- Understand the importance of Jesus being God and man.
- Explain what the name Jesus means.
- Recognize that even the best of men are not good enough, which is why we need a Savior.

KEY VERSE

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

APPLICATION

- Believe what God says in His Word, no matter what your friends or others say.
- Obey your authorities as Joseph obeyed the angel.
- Thank God that He sent His perfect Son to come live a perfect life and die for sinful men.

NEXT WEEK

The King Is Adored
Read Matthew 2:1–12.

Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

The Purpose

Matthew has been described as a book written *by* a Jew, *to* Jews, *about* a Jew who was the *King* of the Jews. Matthew (who was also known as Levi) was a Jewish tax collector who left his sinful life to follow Jesus and become one of His 12 disciples (Matt. 9:9; Mark 2:14). His aim in writing this Gospel was to demonstrate that Jesus is the promised Messiah and King, the fulfillment of the Jewish Scriptures, which spoke of Him. In this book, Matthew presents Jesus as the Messiah who was revealed, was rejected, and will return.

Of the New Testament books, Matthew (along with James and Hebrews) has some of the strongest Jewish Old Testament emphases, and only Romans has more Old Testament quotes than Matthew. This distinct Old Testament focus is apparent in Matthew’s opening chapter, where he quotes Old Testament prophecy (Matt. 1:22–23), calls Jesus “the Messiah, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham” (1:1), and traces His lineage through Abraham, the father of the Jews (1:2–6), as well as through David’s kingly line (1:6–11), from which Mary’s husband, Joseph, also descended. The angel reminded Joseph of his ancestry when explaining God’s plan to him (1:20). In contrast, Luke’s genealogy (Luke 3:23–38), with its Gentile emphasis, traces Mary’s lineage back past Abraham all the way to Adam, the father of all races.

In Matthew’s Gospel, Christ comes as “the King of the Jews” (Matt. 2:2), but not in the sense of an earthly, temporal monarch. The Jews had been conquered by many nations and rulers, and they were looking for a Messiah to deliver them physically and politically. However, Matthew more than any biblical writer emphasizes “the Kingdom of heaven.” In fact, he uses this phrase 32 times, while it never appears anywhere else in the Bible. The Jews expected a royal ruler over Jerusalem—not a lowly, manger-born baby from a low-income Galilean family in the carpentry trade. Many expected the Messiah to ride in with his horse and army to conquer the Romans, but, instead, Matthew presents the Messiah-King as riding humbly on a donkey and teaching spiritual repentance rather than political revolution.

Why a Genealogy?

Knowing one’s “roots,” family tree, and origins is interesting, and many people have studied these things to gain perspective on who they are and where they have come from. To the Jews, tracing ancestry and heritage was not just interesting, but also extremely important, much more important than it is in our culture today. Although Joseph was not Jesus’ biological father, he was His legal father in the eyes of Jewish law. In keeping with the book’s purpose, the genealogy in Matthew 1 shows that Jesus had full Messianic legal and lineage credentials. The Jews knew that God had promised Abraham and David that the Messiah would be their descendant, and

Additional Reference Materials

God in a Manger by John MacArthur

Matthew: MacArthur New Testament Commentary

Matthew demonstrates that Jesus qualified in every respect. It was normal in that day to list names of only the most significant Jewish males when tracing one's family. But in Matthew's account there are several unusual exceptions. There is the Canaanite woman Tamar, who was guilty of immorality (Matt. 1:3; Gen. 38), as well as Bathsheba, Uriah's wife (Matt 1:6; 2 Sam. 12), whom God used to continue the dynasty through Solomon despite David's adultery and murder of Uriah. The genealogy also includes Rahab and Ruth (1:5), who were not only women, but also Gentiles. The former was a harlot from Jericho and was saved from destruction by her faith (Josh. 2), and the latter was a Moabite woman loved by Boaz, her "kinsman redeemer" (Ruth 1–4). Even the best of men in this list, Abraham and David, were guilty of serious sin against God and desperately needed a perfect Savior to intervene. This is no dull list of names; it is a testimony to God's grace and faithfulness in using sinful people to accomplish His plan for the birth of the Messiah, who would save His people from their sins.

Betrothal

In Jewish life and law, betrothal was a formal ceremony and celebration in which a contract was signed in front of witnesses, payment was made to the bride's father, gifts were given, wills were drafted regarding property and possessions in the event of death, and the couple were considered husband and wife. Unlike modern engagement, betrothal could be ended only by divorce (Matt. 1:18–19; Deut. 24:1) or death, which was the penalty for adultery (Deut. 22:23–24). In every legal sense, a betrothed couple already functioned as husband and wife, although there was no physical union until the actual wedding ceremony, which could be up to a year later. Joseph probably was between 17 and 20 years old, and Mary between 12 and 16, since these were the normal ages at which couples were betrothed.

The Virgin Birth

Isaiah 7:14 prophesied Messiah's virgin birth, and Matthew's language makes it clear that Mary was a virgin who had never been intimate with any man. Her pregnancy was a miracle with no human explanation. Jesus truly was "God with us" (the meaning of the name Immanuel; God in human form). Mary was a sinner who needed a Savior like everyone else (Luke 1:47). God blessed her with the privilege of being Christ's earthly mother, while God alone was His Father. This unique conception was necessary for a Messiah who would be fully God and fully man, yet without sin. Many believe that Genesis 3:15 refers to Christ, the seed (singular) of a woman rather than a man, and the One who would crush Satan. Mary remained pure until after her wedding ceremony and after Jesus was born, but she did not remain a virgin all her life, as some teach. In fact, Mary and Joseph had a number of other children, including James and Jude, who later would believe and write the New Testament books named after them (Matt. 13:55; Mark 3:31–35, etc.).

Pregnancy outside of marriage would make any Jewish woman the subject of much rumor and scandalous ridicule. In fact, critics later would accuse Jesus of being a Samaritan (John 8:38), born from fornication (8:41), or even the son of a Roman soldier. The Gospels reveal Mary and Joseph's strong faith in God when probably few, if any, others believed the truth and most looked down on them.

Joseph was an honorable and righteous man and was obedient to the angel, even though his message may have been hard to understand or believe. Normally, a Jewish father and mother would carefully choose a name for their child, as names in their culture were very significant. Although Immanuel was one of many names Jesus would be called, the angel told Joseph and Mary to give Him the name "Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (1:21). Jesus is the Greek form of the

Hebrew name Joshua. Both mean “Yahweh saves” or “Jehovah will save.” This is the culmination of chapter 1 and again shows the purpose of Matthew’s Gospel and the reason Jesus came. In Him, God was with us (John 1:14) to save sinners who repent and trust in Christ alone, who is the only one through whom people can be saved (Acts 4:12).

Note: Although Jesus’ virgin birth is a foundational truth, teachers should exercise sensitivity and discretion when presenting it to students.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

“Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth” (Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week’s lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week’s lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Meaningful Names

Bring a baby-name book to class. Introduce the key verse, and emphasize the meaning of Jesus’ name. Then, as a class or in small groups, discuss the following questions:

Do you know how your mother and father decided on your name when you were born? *Allow two or three students to answer.*

Does anyone know how Jewish parents named their children around the time that Jesus was born? *Answer: the parents chose a name very carefully because a name was very significant in their culture.*

My first name is _____. Does anyone know what my name means? *Give your name and its meaning.*

Would anyone like to find out what their name means? *Use the baby book to look up the students’ names. Share the meanings with the class.*

Does anyone know what the name Jesus means? *Tell the students, “I’ll give you a hint: the meaning is found in Matthew 1:21.” Read the verse out loud.*

Explain the information on Jesus’ name from the Bible Background section.



Who’s in Your Family?

Bring in photos of your family members—your parents, grandparents, and even great-grandparents—and tell the students some stories about them. Ask the students about their families. How far back can they trace their family line? You could arrange your photos on a paper tree that you cut out before class time. Place the tree on the wall so the students can see how your lineage led to your birth. Tell the students that in today’s lesson, they will learn about the family tree and lineage of someone much more special than any of us.



Genealogy Hand Jive

Materials: copy of the “Genealogy Hand Jive” page (at back of lesson) on an overhead transparency, overhead projector

Directions: Before class, practice the hand jive several times so that you are familiar with the rhythm and motions. During class, teach the students the motions

while another teacher slowly reads through the genealogy in Matthew 1:1–17. Put the transparency on the projector, and let the students chant through the genealogy while doing the hand jive. For more fun, you could increase the speed of reading during the hand jive.

Variation: For younger students, simplify the hand jive by just having the students clap every time they hear the word “begot.”

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

“Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done” (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students’ understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Reading of the Text

Read Matthew 1:1–25.

Introduction

Christmas is a time when we celebrate God’s priceless gift of His Son to us. We are reminded of and celebrate God’s gift by our giving gifts to others. As we look into God’s Word today, think about all that went into God giving us His gift. God’s planning is clearly seen in the beginning of Matthew, where Jesus’ family tree is listed. God knew exactly how He would bring Jesus into the world. In today’s lesson we will look at Jesus’ ancestry and His coming into the world to save sinners.

Leadoff Questions (LOQs)

LOQ: Why did Matthew write his Gospel?

Answer: Matthew’s intention was to demonstrate that Jesus is the promised Messiah and King, the fulfillment of the Old Testament Scriptures.

LOQ: What does Matthew show as he begins his book?

Answer: Matthew traces Jesus’ lineage from Abraham, the father of the Jews, through David’s kingly line to Mary’s husband, Joseph. Matthew is proving that Jesus is in fact the King.

LOQ: What were the Jews looking for in a king?

Answer: They were thinking that the Messiah would come deliver them physically and politically. They believed that he would be a royal ruler over Israel—not a lowly, manger-born baby from a low-income Galilean family in the carpentry trade. Many thought that the Messiah would ride in with his horse and army to conquer the Romans. Instead, the Messiah-King rode humbly on a donkey and taught spiritual repentance rather than political revolution.



LOQ: What was betrothal?

Answer: Betrothal in Jewish culture was an agreement between the parents of a young man and woman. There was a formal ceremony that included gifts, and a payment to the bride's father. It was more than just engagement but was not quite marriage. The couple would live apart for up to a year until the wedding ceremony.

LOQ: What was unique about Jesus' birth?

Answer: Jesus had no earthly father. His birth was a miraculous event that God accomplished in Mary's life.

LOQ: What do we know about Joseph's character?

Answer: Joseph was an honorable and righteous man who was obedient to the angel God sent to him.

LOQ: What was special about Jesus' name?

Answer: An angel told Mary and Joseph to give Jesus His name. A name was very important because it said a lot about the person. Jesus' name was very significant because of what it meant. Jesus means "Yaweh saves."

Summary

In God's perfect wisdom, He chose to send us a gift. His gift is unlike any gift given before and unlike any that will be given in the future. God's Son humbled Himself and came as a little child into the world to one day die for the sins of all who would believe.

Application

As we celebrate this Christmas season, we should thank God that He gave us the gift of His Son. Because of Jesus' perfect life and death on the cross, sinful man can be cleansed of sin. Without His birth, He never would have been able to die.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



God Is Born

Use this discussion to help the students understand what a unique and incomprehensible event Christ's incarnation was. Begin by reminding the students of God's incommunicable characteristics (those characteristics that only God has), such as His eternality, omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence. Help them to understand how powerful and wonderful God is. As God the Son, Christ has all these characteristics. However, when He came to earth as a man, He laid aside independent exercise of some of them, though He still was fully God. This is something that our finite minds cannot fully comprehend. Understanding Christ's incarnation should cause us to praise Him for who He is and what He has done.



Act It Out

Today's lesson will be very familiar to most students. They have likely heard it taught each year at Christmas time and will know the basic storyline. Assign students roles in the Christmas story the week before. You may also want to give them short lines to learn during the week. Ask them to bring in a costume to wear during the play. The story can then be acted out during the lesson time.



An Amazing Instruction

In today's lesson, an angel gave Joseph the amazing message that Mary was pregnant with God's Son, that he should marry her, and that he was to name the child Jesus. To illustrate what this might have been like for Joseph, give a student an unusual instruction. It could be something like, "Look in the piano bench" (where you have hidden some candy). Did the student follow your instruction? Did he ask questions? Did he hesitate? Did he like his reward? Discuss how Joseph obeyed God's command and was blessed for doing so.

Praise and Worship

ABCDEFG

Away in a Manger

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O-B-E-D-I-E-N-C-E

Praise the Name of Jesus

Silent Night

The B-I-B-L-E

Trust and Obey

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



"Joseph Obeys God"

Materials: copies of the "Joseph Obeys God" craft page, crayons

Directions: Give the students each a copy of the craft page, and have them fold inward along the first dotted line, outward along the second dotted line, and inward along the third dotted line. When reading Matthew 1:18–19, leave the picture folded so that only Joseph turning away from Mary is visible. After reading the angel's announcement, flip the picture of Joseph over, hiding the first verse and showing the second. Joseph now is being obedient to the angel and taking Mary as his wife.



"Unspeakable Gift"

Materials: Christmas wrapping paper, scissors, glue, copies of the "Unspeakable Gift" craft page

Directions: Give the students each a copy of the craft page and assorted pieces of wrapping paper. Direct them to cut the paper into small pieces and glue them inside the bubble letters.



“Begot” Relay

Materials: one paper crown, one chair, one genealogy list, and one pencil for each team; masking tape

Directions: Before class, place a long masking-tape line on the floor. Set the chairs about 10 feet from the tape. Place a genealogy list and a pencil in each chair. During class, divide the students into small teams (7–10 students each), and have each team line up single-file across from its designated chair. Place a crown on the head of the first student in each line. At your signal, the first student in each line should run to the chair and pick up the list of names, read the first box while turning in a circle, and then lift his crown in the air to signal his team to say, “Begot!” (Every team member must participate in saying this.) Then he should read the second box on the list while turning in a second circle, and then cross the first box off the list and lay the list and pencil back in the chair. Finally, he should run back to his team and put the crown on the next student’s head. Play continues until all 40 boxes have been crossed off the list. Once a team finishes, they should all sit down and watch the other teams finish. Designate a teacher or assistant to keep track of the order in which the teams finish. (Note: you may want to demonstrate the relay before having the students begin.)



“Christmas Family Tree”

Materials: copies of the “Christmas Family Tree” craft page, pencils, crayons

Directions: Give the students each a copy of the craft pages, and have them connect the dots to form a Christmas tree shape. The dots are numbered and identified with each generation from Abraham to Jesus, with Jesus being the top dot on the star. After they connect the dots, the students can color their pictures.



“Family Portraits”

Materials: copies of the “Family Portraits” craft page, pencils, crayons

Directions: Give each student a copy of the craft page, and have him draw his family in one picture frame and Jesus’ family in the other. Talk about Jesus’ being the Son of God.



“The King Is Born”

Use this work sheet to reinforce the key truths of today’s lesson. The work sheet is located at the back of the lesson.

Coloring Pages

Give each student the coloring sheets from the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.



Journal Page: “The Promised Savior”

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. The students can complete the page individually, in small groups, or at home.



MEMORY VERSE

“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).

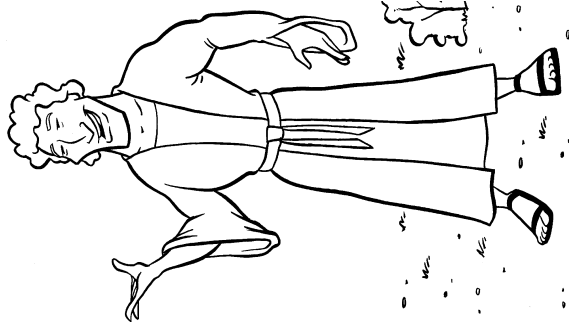
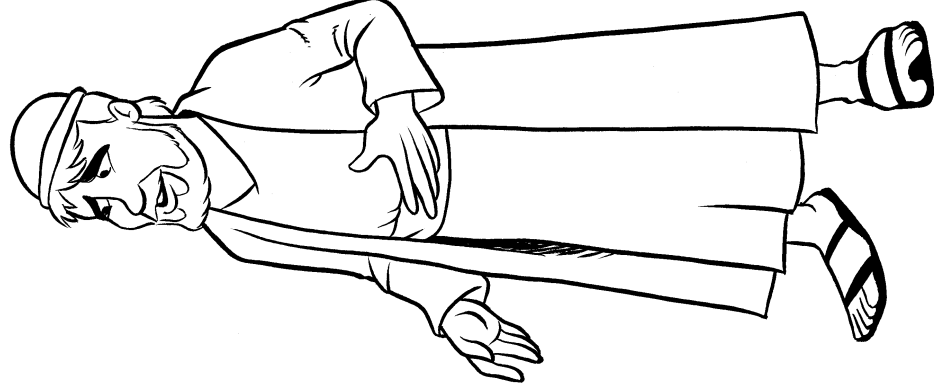
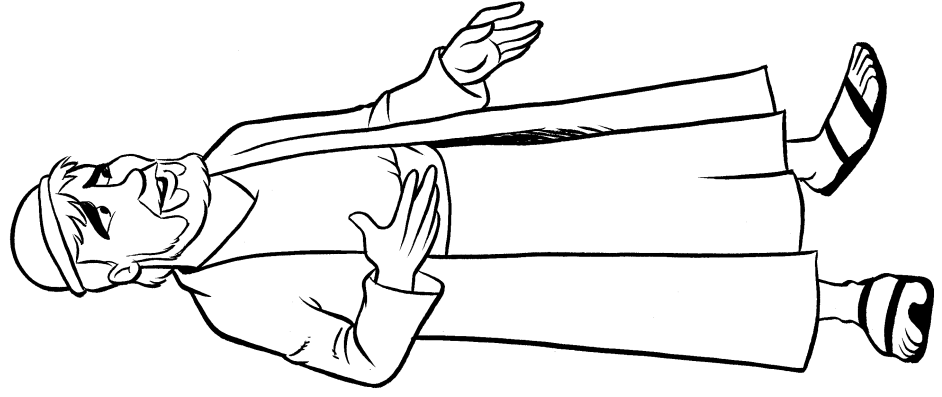
Genealogy Hand Jive

Abraham	<i>Snap</i>	David the king	<i>Snap</i>	About the time	<i>Pause</i>
begot	<i>Clap</i>	begot	<i>Clap</i>	they were carried away into	
Isaac	<i>Slap</i>	Solomon	<i>Slap</i>	Babylon.	
Isaac	<i>Slap</i>	by her who had	<i>Pause</i>	And after they were brought	
begot	<i>Clap</i>	been the wife of		to Babylon,	
Jacob	<i>Snap</i>	Uriah			
and Jacob	<i>Snap</i>	Solomon	<i>Snap</i>	Jeconiah	<i>Slap</i>
begot	<i>Clap</i>	begot	<i>Clap</i>	begot	<i>Clap</i>
Judah	<i>Slap</i>	Rehoboam	<i>Slap</i>	Shealtiel	<i>Snap</i>
and his	<i>Clap 3x</i>	Rehoboam	<i>Slap</i>	And Shealtiel	<i>Snap</i>
brothers		begot	<i>Clap</i>	begot	<i>Clap</i>
Judah	<i>Slap</i>	Abijah	<i>Snap</i>	Zerubbabel	<i>Slap</i>
begot	<i>Clap</i>	and Abijah	<i>Snap</i>	Zerubbabel	<i>Slap</i>
Perez	<i>Snap</i>	begot	<i>Clap</i>	begot	<i>Clap</i>
and Zerah	<i>Pause</i>	Asa	<i>Slap</i>	Abiud	<i>Snap</i>
by Tamar		Asa	<i>Slap</i>	Abiud	<i>Snap</i>
Perez	<i>Slap</i>	begot	<i>Clap</i>	begot	<i>Clap</i>
begot	<i>Clap</i>	Jehoshaphat	<i>Snap</i>	Eliakim	<i>Slap</i>
Hezron	<i>Snap</i>	Jehoshaphat	<i>Snap</i>	And Eliakim	<i>Slap</i>
and Hezron	<i>Snap</i>	begot	<i>Clap</i>	begot	<i>Clap</i>
begot	<i>Clap</i>	Joram	<i>Slap</i>	Azor	<i>Snap</i>
Ram	<i>Slap</i>	and Joram	<i>Slap</i>	Azor	<i>Snap</i>
Ram	<i>Slap</i>	begot	<i>Clap</i>	begot	<i>Clap</i>
begot	<i>Clap</i>	Uzziah	<i>Snap</i>	Zadok	<i>Slap</i>
Amminadab	<i>Snap</i>	Uzziah	<i>Snap</i>	Zadok	<i>Slap</i>
Amminadab	<i>Snap</i>	begot	<i>Clap</i>	begot	<i>Clap</i>
begot	<i>Clap</i>	Jotham	<i>Slap</i>	Achim	<i>Snap</i>
Nahshon	<i>Slap</i>	Jotham	<i>Slap</i>	And Achim	<i>Snap</i>
and Nahshon	<i>Slap</i>	begot	<i>Clap</i>	begot	<i>Clap</i>
begot	<i>Clap</i>	Ahaz	<i>Snap</i>	Eliud	<i>Slap</i>
Salmon	<i>Snap</i>	and Ahaz	<i>Snap</i>	Eliud	<i>Slap</i>
Salmon	<i>Snap</i>	begot	<i>Clap</i>	begot	<i>Clap</i>
begot	<i>Clap</i>	Hezekiah	<i>Slap</i>	Eleazar	<i>Snap</i>
Boaz	<i>Slap</i>	Hezekiah	<i>Slap</i>	Eleazar	<i>Snap</i>
by Rahab	<i>Pause</i>	begot	<i>Clap</i>	begot	<i>Clap</i>
Boaz	<i>Snap</i>	Manasseh	<i>Snap</i>	Matthan	<i>Slap</i>
begot	<i>Clap</i>	Manasseh	<i>Snap</i>	And Matthan	<i>Slap</i>
Obed	<i>Slap</i>	begot	<i>Clap</i>	begot	<i>Clap</i>
by Ruth	<i>Pause</i>	Amon	<i>Slap</i>	Jacob	<i>Snap</i>
Obed	<i>Snap</i>	and Amon	<i>Slap</i>	And Jacob	<i>Snap</i>
begot	<i>Clap</i>	begot	<i>Clap</i>	begot	<i>Clap</i>
Jesse	<i>Slap</i>	Josiah	<i>Snap</i>	Joseph	<i>Slap</i>
and Jesse	<i>Slap</i>	Josiah	<i>Snap</i>	the husband of	<i>Pause</i>
begot	<i>Clap</i>	Begot	<i>Clap</i>	Mary, of whom	<i>Clap 3x</i>
David	<i>Snap</i>	Jeconiah	<i>Slap</i>	was born Jesus	
the king	<i>crown</i>	and his		who is called Christ.	
		brothers	<i>Clap 3x</i>		

Joseph Obeyes God



“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly” (Matthew 1:18–19).



“But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.’” (Matthew 1:20–21).

Unspeakable Gift

JESUS

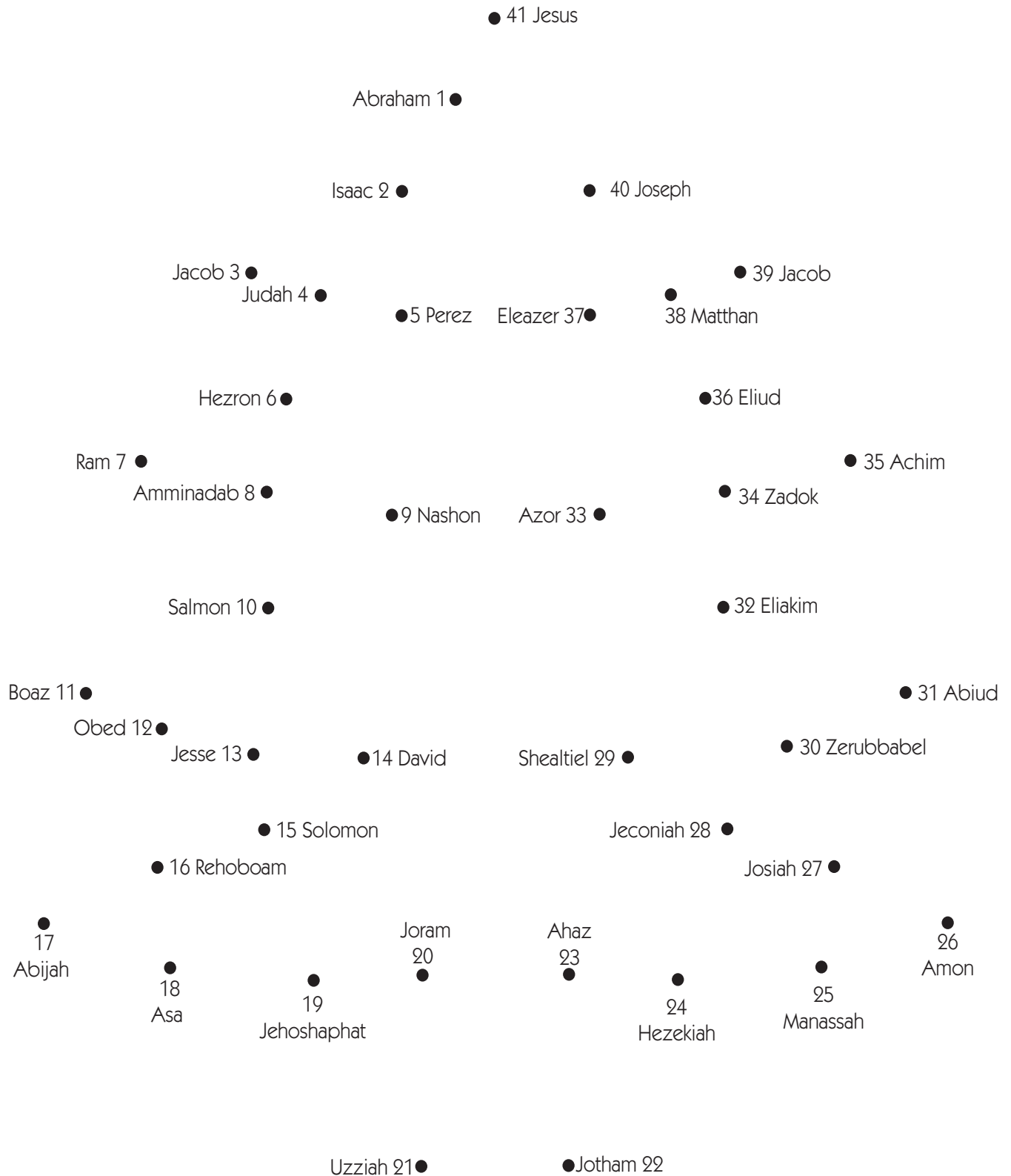
*“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus,
for He will save His people from their sins”
(Matthew 1:21).*

“Begot” Genealogy List

Abraham begot Isaac
Isaac begot Jacob
Jacob begot Judah
Judah begot Perez
Perez begot Hezron
Hezron begot Ram
Ram begot Amminadab
Amminadab begot Nahshon
Nahshon begot Salmon
Salmon begot Boaz
Boaz begot Obed
Obed begot Jesse
Jesse begot David
David begot Solomon
Solomon begot Rehoboam
Rehoboam begot Abijah
Abijah begot Asa
Asa begot Jehoshaphat
Jehoshaphat begot Joram
Joram begot Uzziah
Uzziah begot Jotham
Jotham begot Ahaz
Ahaz begot Hezekiah
Hezekiah begot Manasseh
Manasseh begot Amon
Amon begot Josiah
Josiah begot Jeconiah
Jeconiah begot Shealtiel
Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel
Zerubbabel begot Abiud
Abiud begot Eliakim
Eliakim begot Azor
Azor begot Zadok
Zadok begot Achim
Achim begot Eliud
Eliud begot Eleazar
Eleazar begot Matthan
Matthan begot Jacob
Jacob begot Joseph
God begot Christ

Abraham begot Isaac
Isaac begot Jacob
Jacob begot Judah
Judah begot Perez
Perez begot Hezron
Hezron begot Ram
Ram begot Amminadab
Amminadab begot Nahshon
Nahshon begot Salmon
Salmon begot Boaz
Boaz begot Obed
Obed begot Jesse
Jesse begot David
David begot Solomon
Solomon begot Rehoboam
Rehoboam begot Abijah
Abijah begot Asa
Asa begot Jehoshaphat
Jehoshaphat begot Joram
Joram begot Uzziah
Uzziah begot Jotham
Jotham begot Ahaz
Ahaz begot Hezekiah
Hezekiah begot Manasseh
Manasseh begot Amon
Amon begot Josiah
Josiah begot Jeconiah
Jeconiah begot Shealtiel
Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel
Zerubbabel begot Abiud
Abiud begot Eliakim
Eliakim begot Azor
Azor begot Zadok
Zadok begot Achim
Achim begot Eliud
Eliud begot Eleazar
Eleazar begot Matthan
Matthan begot Jacob
Jacob begot Joseph
God begot Christ

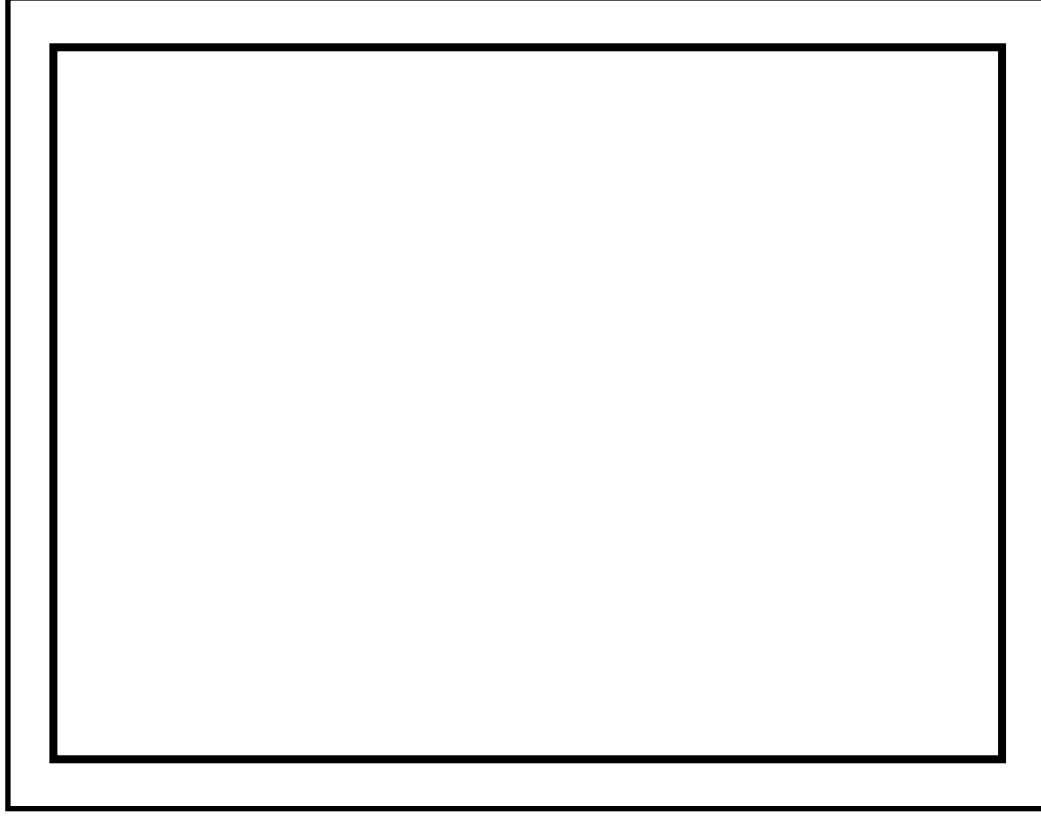
Christmas Family Tree



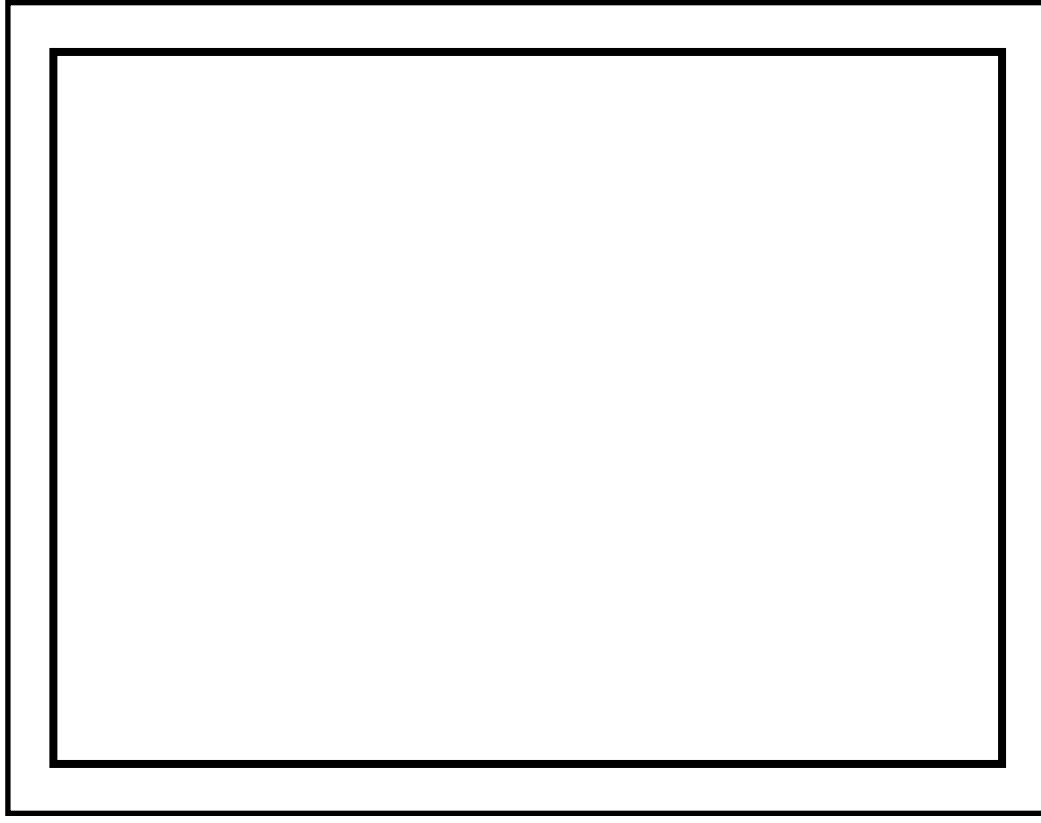
**“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”
(John 3:16).**

Family Portraits

My Family



Jesus' Family



“Now the birth of Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 1:18).

The King Is Born



Matthew 1:1–25

Name _____

1. Was Joseph troubled over Mary's pregnancy? _____
2. To whom did the angel appear in Matthew 1:18–25? _____
3. Who caused Mary to become pregnant with Jesus? _____
4. Write out Matthew 1:21.

5. Mary was Jesus' mother and God was His Father, making Him both _____
and _____.
6. True or False: The list of people in Matthew 1:1–17 shows that God uses sinful people
to preserve His plan and fulfill prophecy. _____

The Promised Savior

“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).

Some parents give their children names to honor relatives or famous people, or to convey a special meaning (the name Grace, for instance), but do you know why God gave His Son the names He did? Each of the following names for Christ from Matthew 1 is a fulfillment of a promise God made to His people! The first two, which you may recognize from past Old Testament lessons, are names that connect Christ with God’s covenants to David and Abraham. The next two names have meanings that tell the world that Christ is the promised Savior.

Can you match each name of Christ below with its Old Testament promise by placing the correct letter in front of the promise?

NAMES

- A. Son of David B. Son of Abraham C. Immanuel D. Jesus

PROMISES

- _____ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14b).
_____ “And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever ever before you. Your throne shall be established forever” (2 Samuel 7:16).
_____ “He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5).
_____ “And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 12:3b).

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In the Old Testament God promised to send the Messiah, who was His Son, Jesus Christ. The Bible says in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." God loved people so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for the punishment of the sins of all who would trust in Him for salvation.

What does John 3:16 mean?

What does a Christian know about his eternal home?

How can believers honor God with their lives?

PRAYER

Thank You, Lord, for the gift of your Son. Thank You that He died and that anyone who trusts in Him will be saved. Thank You for making a way to live forever with You in heaven.

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An angel appeared to Joseph and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 1:20).



**Joseph did as the angel of the Lord commanded
and took Mary as his wife (Matthew 1:24).**

