



Jesus Christ Is Born

Matthew 1



LESSON GOAL

The student will understand that Jesus is the only Savior of sin.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

The student will be able to:

- Identify and explain various titles of Jesus in Matthew 1.
- Analyze the importance of the genealogy of Jesus.
- Explain how Jesus was both heir of the Davidic throne and Immanuel.
- Remember which promises God fulfilled in Matthew 1.

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

- Realize your need to be saved from your sins.
- Trust in Jesus as the Savior of your sins.
- Live a holy life if God is with you.
- Praise God for His faithfulness.

NEXT WEEK

Jesus Is Worshiped

Read Matthew 2.

Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level

Teacher Planning Sheet

PREPARE

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Personal Application

As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to...

- _____
- _____
- _____

Three ways students need to apply this passage are...

- _____
- _____
- _____

Materials Needed:

POINT

Choose from various ideas to point them to the coming Bible lesson.

- _____
- _____

PROCLAIM

Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.

Presentation Ideas

- _____
- _____

Praise/Music Ideas

- _____
- _____
- _____

PRACTICE

Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.

- _____
- _____

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 that will aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

Introduction

When talking to lost family, friends, or neighbors, most believers would not begin a Gospel presentation the way the Apostle Matthew did in the first book of the New Testament. Instead of beginning with the genealogy of Jesus Christ in Matthew 1, they would probably proclaim who God is, warn of God’s judgment of sin, call the unbeliever to repentance and share who Jesus Christ is and how His death and resurrection allows for all who place their faith in Him to come to salvation. Perhaps, the virgin birth might not even come up in the conversation. But the Apostle Matthew had a different audience than most believers do today.

Matthew was writing to a primarily Jewish audience. Like today, most Jews had not accepted Jesus as the Messiah whom God had promised to send in the Old Testament. Instead of looking for reconciliation to God, most Jews were waiting for a warrior king who would throw off the chains of Roman oppression and lead Israel into unprecedented glory as God’s chosen people. While some Jews understood that their most serious problem was their sin, most looked beyond their own hearts and hatefully stared into the eyes of Roman oppressors. When Jesus Christ came calling the Jews to repentance, faith, and discipleship, they suppressed their guilty conscience and rejected and crucified their own Messiah, the Son of David. Preferring their own righteousness to repentance, the Jews had killed their king.

Most likely writing to Greek-speaking Jews outside of Israel, Matthew began his Gospel to convince the Jews that Jesus was the promised king of the Jews. Even though the Jews had created a picture of what their Messiah should be like, Matthew knew that there could be no salvation unless they accepted the Messiah as He is. In the first chapter of his Gospel, Matthew explains that Jesus was the only Messiah whom God would ever send, both legal heir to the throne of David and incarnate God. The Jews could only come to the Father through His Son. All people today, both Jews and Gentiles, must come to Jesus as the promised Messiah, the only Savior from their sins.

The Genealogy of Jesus Christ (Matt. 1:1–17)

In the very first verse, Matthew unapologetically proclaims who Jesus is: the “Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.” The name Jesus is the Latin equivalent of the Greek transliteration of the Hebrew name Jeshua, a shortening of Jehoshua which means “the Lord is Salvation.” The title Christ means “anointed one” and is the equivalent of the Hebrew word for Messiah. Both priests and kings were anointed, setting themselves apart in a particular role. As time progressed, the term Messiah (cf. Psalm 2:2) was used increasingly to refer to the coming Son of David. The title Son of David refers to Jesus as the legal heir of the throne of Israel because of His descent from David. Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s covenant

to David in 2 Samuel 7:16 in which God promised David that one of His descendants would reign forever. Naturally if Jesus was a descendant of David, He was also the Son of Abraham. The special title emphasizes that Jesus has a unique relationship to Abraham, the promised seed in whom “all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Gen. 12:3). Matthew made a tremendous claim in identifying Jesus, who did not meet the Jews’ expectations of a Messiah, as the Son of David. In verses 2–17, Matthew presents a genealogical record of Jesus’ Davidic descent.

Matthew 1:17 describes the interesting structure of the genealogy. The genealogy was written in three sections of fourteen generations each. The first section lists those ancestors who lived from the time of Abraham to “David the king” (1:2–6); the second section lists descendants of David until Jeconiah was carried away into exile (1:6–11). The third section records the period of exile until the time of Joseph (1:12–16). The division into three sections is easier to understand than why each section has fourteen generations. Since Matthew is concerned with tracing the genealogy of the King, it is only fitting that the first section ends with the most important event in the lineage of a king, the beginning of the dynasty. It also makes sense that the second section ends with Jeconiah’s going into exile since around that time Israel lost the privilege of a king reigning in Jerusalem. The third section covers most of the intertestamental period during which Israel was under Gentile domination and had no king. Although Israel was without a king, the Davidic line continued until the time of Jesus. More mysterious than why there are three sections is why each section consists of only fourteen generations. Some generations are clearly skipped. (For example, nearly four centuries are between Rahab and David but only a few generations are mentioned in 1:5–6). The word “begot” doesn’t require a father–son relationship but only shows the relationship between an ancestor and descendant. Why the Holy Spirit directed Matthew to skip certain generations has remained a mystery as has the importance of limiting the record to fourteen generations in each section.

A study of which names are present and absent in the genealogy is rewarding, but no verse is more fascinating or profound than verse 16: “And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.” Even though several women are mentioned earlier in the genealogy, the normal pattern of “Abraham begot Isaac” is followed throughout. But the pattern ends abruptly with Joseph. The “whom” is a singular, feminine pronoun emphasizing that Jesus was Mary’s physical offspring but not Joseph’s. With this genealogy, Matthew sought to show that Jesus was indeed the legal heir to the Davidic throne but the Jewish readers must have wondered how Jesus could be king if he was not physically the son of David. The next section gives the answer.

The Birth of Jesus Christ (Matt. 1:18–25)

Matthew could not say that “Joseph begot Jesus” because it was not true. Instead, Matthew succinctly announces that Mary was “found with child of the Holy Spirit” (1:18). No attempt is made to explain the miracle of how the Second Person of the Trinity became man. While Scripture clearly teaches that the Son of God has always been God (John 1:1–5), it affirms (Col. 2:9) but does not explain how the Son of God added humanity without losing deity (Phil. 2:6–8). The mystery is great and treated with humility by Matthew. The same Spirit which brought conception to Mary taught Matthew how to describe the virgin birth. One of the most profound mysteries in and beyond the universe is assumed in half a verse. Without stopping to expound the mystery, Matthew seeks to resolve the initial problem of how Jesus can be the legal heir of Joseph if not physically related to him.

Although Joseph and Mary were only engaged, the Jewish engagement was a binding agreement in which a couple took the titles of husband and wife but still

lived in separate homes and did not consummate the marriage (for as long as a year). This Jewish tradition explains why Matthew emphasizes that Mary was pregnant “before they came together” but at the same time calls “Joseph her husband” (1:18–19).

Joseph naturally assumed that Mary had been unfaithful. According to the Law, a betrothed but unfaithful woman was to be stoned (Deut. 22:23–34). Public stoning was not practiced often in Israel at this time but Mary was still in danger. Because Joseph was a “just man,” meaning one who worshiped God and followed His Law, Joseph chose to have mercy on his young wife (1:19). Instead of making her a public example, he chose to seek a quiet divorce. While Mary would be spared public disgrace and perhaps stoning, Jesus’ legal right to the throne of David was in jeopardy.

After Joseph decided to get a divorce, an angel appeared to him in a dream and revealed to Joseph the true nature of Mary’s pregnancy (1:20). The angel encouraged Joseph, whom he significantly addressed as the Son of David, not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife. He explained that the child came not from unfaithfulness but from the Holy Spirit and told him to call the Son, Jesus, “for He will save His people from their sins” (1:21). Even from birth, the Lord revealed that Jesus would not fulfill the Jews’ expectations. While they were waiting to be saved from Rome, Jesus came to bring a much more urgently needed salvation from the punishment and power of sin.

Before telling his readers how Joseph responded to the angel, Matthew tied the events back to Old Testament prophecy, just as he does frequently in his Gospel. He explained that the virgin birth fulfilled what “was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us.’” (The Lord made this prophecy through the prophet Isaiah in the presence of King Ahaz in Isaiah 7:14.) Not only was the coming Messiah the descendant of David but He was also God. In the presence of Jesus, one can truly say “God is with us.” Apart from a virgin birth, God’s Word would be untrue and man could never be in the presence of God.

Many descendants had been in the Davidic line who could have sat on the throne of David. Joseph was one of those. But only one could bring man into the presence of God and was God in the presence of man. Because Joseph obeyed God’s directions through the angel and took Mary to be his wife (1:24), the Lord fulfilled his promise to David that he would have a Son who would reign forever. The son of Mary had entered into the legal line for the Davidic throne. Isaiah’s prophecy was fulfilled as Mary remained a virgin until the birth of the Messiah, whom Joseph obediently named Jesus (1:25). The Son of God became the Son of Man, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.

Conclusion

Matthew’s challenge to his audience was unmistakable: would they accept Jesus as their king? Clearly, Jesus fulfilled the requirement of being a son of David. Joseph, son of David, listened to the angel and took Mary as his wife and Jesus as his heir. Jesus was the king who God had promised would reign over Israel forever, the seed through whom all nations would be blessed. But He was more than just a king! He also fulfilled the prophesy made by Isaiah that the virgin would give birth to a Son who would bring the presence of God among them. The promises to Abraham and David and the prophecy made by Isaiah were fulfilled. Matthew’s Jewish audience could not claim to follow Scripture and also reject their king.

Jesus indeed came to “save His people from their sin.” Because God is gracious, He did not limit salvation from sins to only Jews but made Gentiles His people as

well. Without accepting Christ as Matthew reveals Him in chapter 1, there is no salvation from sin. Jesus must be accepted as Savior and Messiah, as the Son of David and as God the Son, as eternal deity and virgin born. To those who repent and believe in Jesus as He is, God is with them.

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.



It's In the Heir!

That Jesus was an heir of both King David and Abraham is an important part of today's lesson. His genealogy reveals that he was the son of both David and Abraham. To explain this concept of heir, bring in a personal heirloom to the class (perhaps a piece of china or jewelry that has been handed down through the generations). While letting the students either observe or hold this delicate item, explain to them how old it is and perhaps the history of how it has been passed down. Show them pictures of those who have had the heirloom before you and explain how you are related. The idea here is to explain how you are an heir of those who have gone before you. Because of your relation to them, you have been given the right and privilege of receiving what was theirs. In the same way, Jesus was an heir. Being a Son of David, he was heir to the throne of Israel. He was the fulfillment of God's covenant with David in 2 Samuel 7:16, and would be the promised descendant of David who would reign forever. Being a Son of Abraham, Jesus was the promised seed in whom "all the families of the earth would be blessed" (Gen. 12:3). Because of his relationship to both Abraham and David, Jesus would be the way in which salvation would come to man and would receive the right to rule over God's people forever.



What's in a Name?

Have several of the students tell the class their last names. Then ask them how they received that name or who gave it to them. The students should say that their parents gave them their last name. Our last names tell us a lot about ourselves. Because last names are passed down from generation to generation, they can be traced along a family tree or genealogy. Take this time to talk about your last name, perhaps its history and meaning. You can even bring in your family tree, showing the class how your last name has been passed down through many generations. Just like our names reveal a lot about us, we, too, can understand a great deal from the names given to the Messiah in the Bible. Jesus' genealogy records many of the names expected to be given to Him: "Son of David," "Christ," "Jesus," and "Immanuel." These names reveal a number of things about Jesus' nature and purpose while on this earth. Take this time to explain these various names of the Messiah. Jesus' genealogy records that he was the Son of David, revealing that He is the promised seed of David who would rule over the throne forever. Some of the Messiah's other names recorded in Matthew are Christ "the anointed one," Jesus "The Lord is Salvation," and Immanuel "God with Us." He is both fully man and fully God. He is also the one who was set apart to be the salvation of the world.



My Family Tree and Me

Discuss with students how people are related. Most know their parents and their grandparents but how many know the generations before them? Ask the students to create a family tree with all the names of family members that they know. After the students are finished creating their family tree talk about what all of these people did:

1. Where did they live?
2. How did they meet each other?
3. Are they still alive today?
4. How did their parents meet?
5. Where were they born?



Who's in Your Family?

Bring in photos of your family members. If you have pictures and stories to go along with grandparents, great-grandparents, it will make this sharing time more fun. Talk to the students about their families and relatives who have come before them. Can they trace back their family name? You might want to arrange your photos on a tree design, which you have made before class on a piece of poster board. As you attach these on the wall, the students can get the idea of a family tree whose lineage leads to your birth. This morning the students will learn about the family tree and lineage of someone much more special than any of us!

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 alongside the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done right from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Passage Outline

The Genealogy of Jesus Christ (Matt. 1:1–17)

The Birth of Jesus Christ (Matt. 1:18–25)

Introduction

Have you ever looked forward to something only to find out that it was not what you were expecting? Maybe you've waited for something that you thought would be very exciting but when it came it was nothing like you thought it would be. Well, such was the case of Israel during the time of Jesus' birth. For hundreds of years the Jews had looked forward to the arrival of their long awaited Messiah. Once that Messiah had arrived (in the birth of Jesus) they failed to see Him as the one who would “save his people from their sin” (1:21). The people were waiting



for a warrior king rather than a humble king who would save them. Because they were looking for the wrong person they missed seeing the Messiah. Matthew begins his book explaining to the Jews what they had missed. Matthew begins by giving proof of who Jesus is through His family tree. He is the only one who can save the men and women of their sins.

Lead-off Questions (LOQs)

LOQ: What is a genealogy?

Answer: A genealogy is a list of the names of people in someone's family.

LOQ: Where does Matthew's genealogy of Jesus begin?

Answer: Christ's genealogy goes all the way back to Abraham, the promised seed in whom "all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Gen. 12:3).

LOQ: Who is the important king God promised would be related to Jesus?

Answer: King David. Matthew traces the genealogy of the King, and ends the first section with the beginning of the dynasty with King David.

LOQ: What are the names given to Jesus in Matthew 1?

Answer: Jesus: "The Lord is Salvation"; Immanuel: "God with us"; Christ: "Anointed One"; Son of David; and Son of Abraham.

LOQ: Who was Jesus' mother and who was she pledged to be married to?

Answer: Mary was Jesus' mother and she was pledged to be married to Joseph.

LOQ: Why did Joseph think about divorcing Mary quietly?

Answer: Because Mary and Joseph were not officially married at that time and because Mary was pregnant with a baby, Joseph believed that she had been unfaithful to him. Since Joseph worshiped God and followed His Law, he chose to have mercy on his young wife by divorcing her quietly and sparing her from being publicly humiliated.

LOQ: Who was sent to comfort Joseph?

Answer: An angel of the Lord

LOQ: Why did the Angel of the Lord instruct Joseph to name the child "Jesus"?

Answer: This name of Jesus was to reveal that He had come to provide salvation from the punishment and power of sin.

LOQ: If Joseph was not Jesus' father, who was?

Answer: The angel of the Lord explained that the child had come from the Holy Spirit. God was Jesus' father.

LOQ: What prophecy does Matthew say was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus?

Answer: He explains that the virgin birth fulfilled what "was spoken by the Lord through the prophet Isaiah (Isa. 7:14)": that the coming Messiah was not only to be a descendant of David born of a virgin, but would also be God (Immanuel: "God with us").

LOQ: Was Joseph obedient to the angel of the Lord's instructions?

Answer: Yes, Joseph took Mary as his wife and she gave birth to a son, who they named Jesus.

Summary

The birth of Christ, among many things, serves as evidence of the Lord's faithfulness to His people. God had promised a Savior and Messiah and sent Jesus to the world. Jesus was miraculously born of a virgin, and was adopted by Joseph as his son. He was God in the flesh and the only possible person to be both an heir to the Davidic throne and Immanuel. Jesus is a wonderful gift of God to men. God had not only blessed the world with the gift of salvation, but also with His presence on earth. God kept the promises that He had made with Abraham and David and the prophecy made by Isaiah by sending Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

Application

Every man and woman is faced with the decision of whether to trust Jesus as the Savior of their sins. His birth, life and death are evidences that He truly is God. Because we have all sinned we should all be punished in Hell. But God sent His Son into the world to be born as a baby and die for the sins of mankind so that those who trust in Him will not be punished but live with Him eternally in Heaven.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards®

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



Betty Lukens Flannel Graph

Use appropriate flannel graph pieces with the lesson.

Praise and Worship

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Joy To The World!

What Child Is This?

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 that review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



"His Name Means"

Materials: copies of "His Name Means" craft pages, scissors, brads

Directions: Instruct the students to cut out the two circles. Cut out the two shapes on the top circle along the dark line, creating two openings on the top and bottom of the circle. Attach the circles with a brad. You should be able to see Jesus' name in the top opening and the meaning of the name in the bottom opening. Have students color and decorate the top circle.



Don't Break the Chain

Use this game to help explain the evidence of God's faithfulness found in the genealogy of Jesus. This game has a similar structure to that of "Red-Rover." Line up the children in two different adjacent lines; place on each child a sign that contains a particular name given in the genealogy of Jesus. Each child then represents one of the relatives that preceded Jesus (as revealed in the genealogy). Then have the children play the game of Red-Rover, making sure that they call on each other using their given name from the genealogy. As the students manage to break the chain of the opposing team, point out the Lord's faithfulness to keep His promise to King David. Point out just how amazing it was that God brought about the eternal King through the line of David. This King, was given the name Jesus, and was to sit on the throne forever.



"Jesus Christ is born"

Use this worksheet to reinforce the key truths of today's lesson. The worksheet is located at the back of the lesson.



2
3

Small Group Activity: "The Promised Savior"

Use this worksheet in a small group. Lead the students in discussing the questions and their answers. The worksheet is located at the back of the lesson.

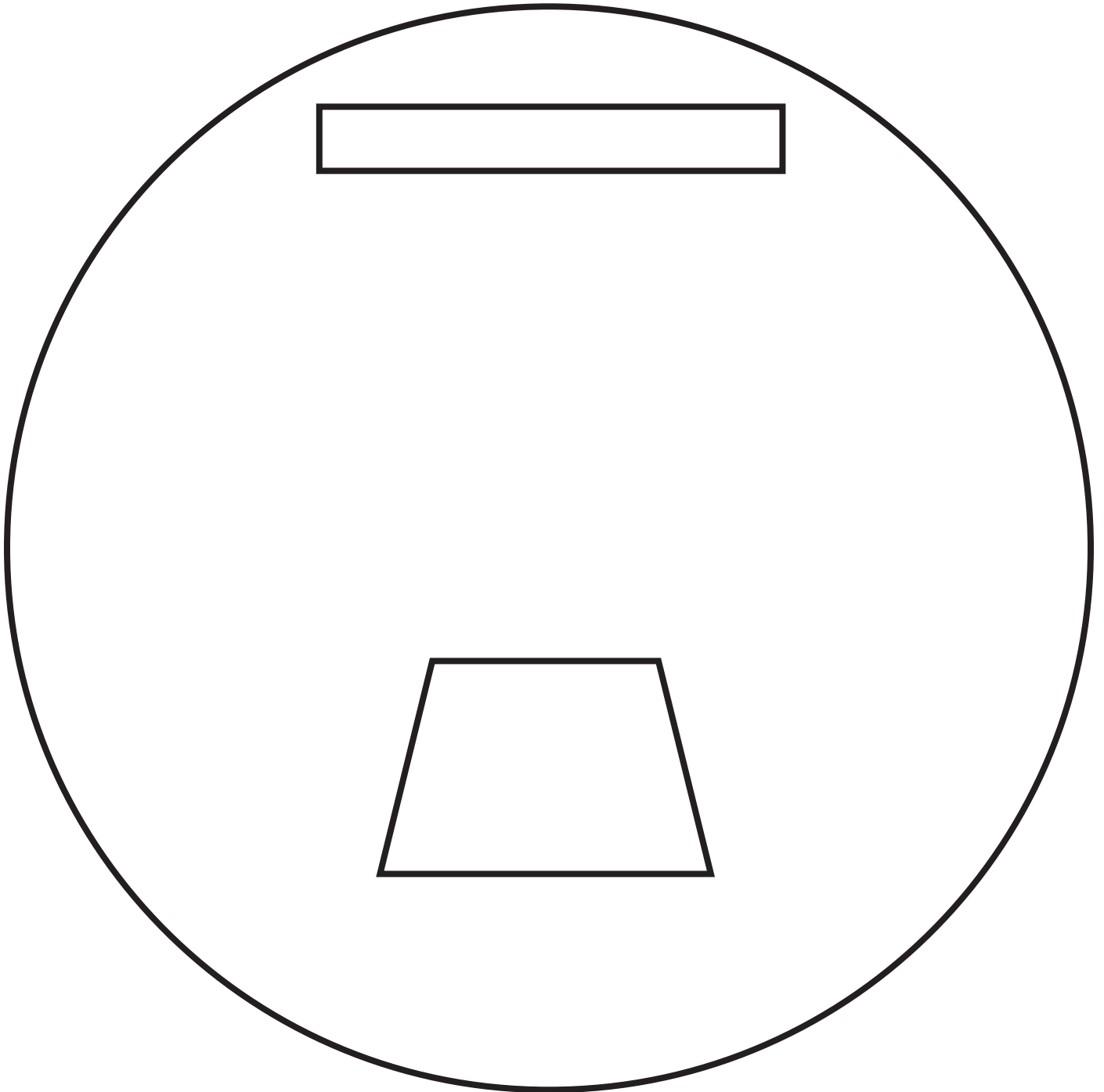


MEMORY VERSE

"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

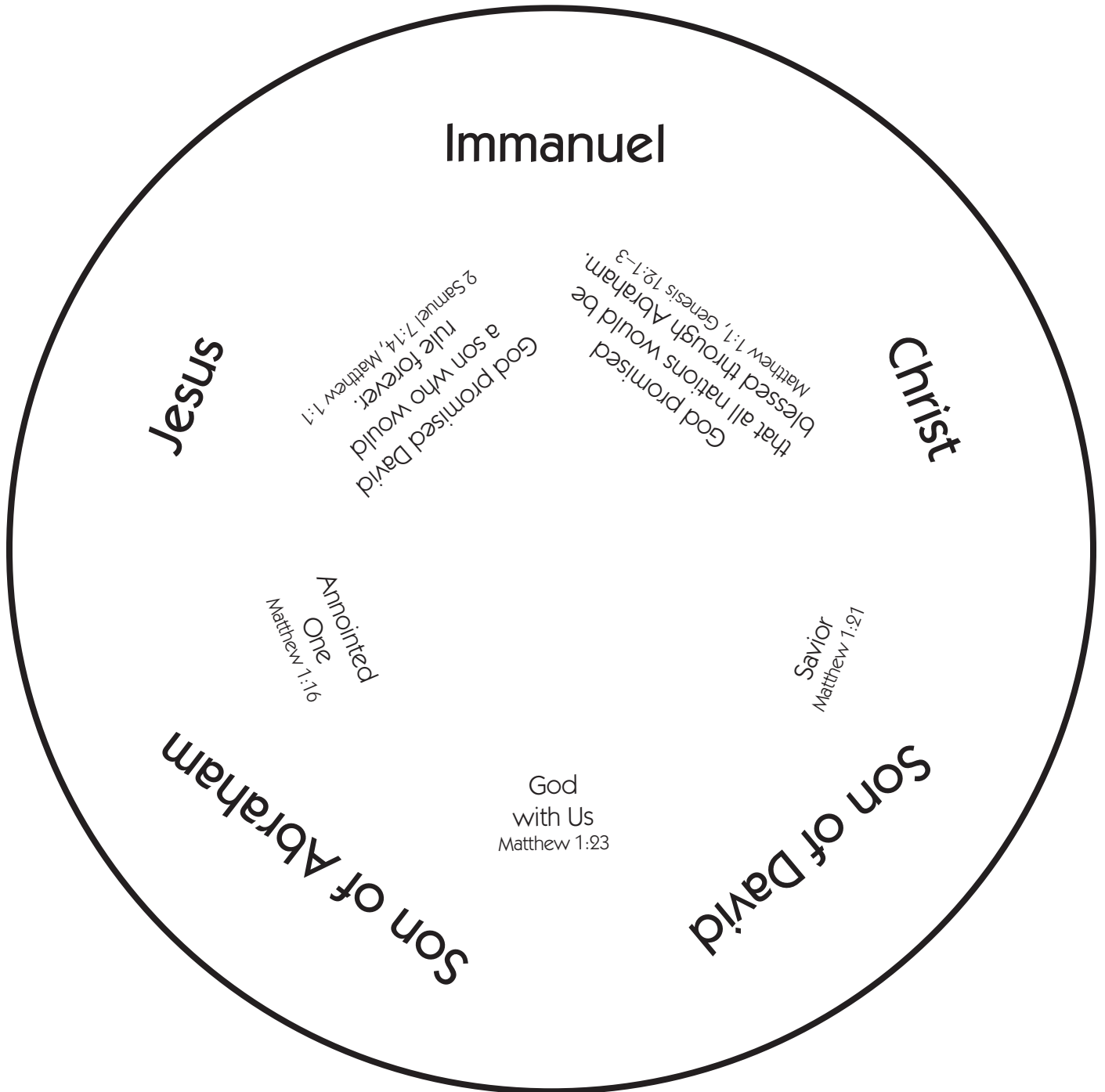
His Name Means

Top Circle



His Name Means

Bottom Circle



Jesus Christ *is born*



Matthew 1

Name _____

1. Was Jesus really the Son of David? _____

2. Why was it important to show that Jesus was from David's family line?

3. Christ means _____.

4. Who was Jesus conceived by? _____

5. True or False: Joseph was the father of Jesus. _____

6. The angel told Joseph to name the child Jesus "for He will _____ His people from their _____" (Matt. 1:21).

7. What does Immanuel mean? _____

8. Did Joseph do as the angel of the Lord commanded? _____

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, such as Grace, 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 previous 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 with its Old Testament promise by placing its 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 kingdom and your house shall be established forever 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 of 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*

Did you recognize the promise to David and the promise to Abraham from previous lessons? Remember how your teacher told you these promises would be fulfilled in Christ?

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Did you recognize the promise to David and the promise to Abraham from previous lessons? Remember how your teacher told you these promises would be fulfilled in Christ?

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 whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." God loved us so much that He sent His Son to die in place of the sins of men.

What does John 3:16 mean?

What does a Christian know about his or her 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 can be saved. Thank you that you made a way to live forever with you in heaven.

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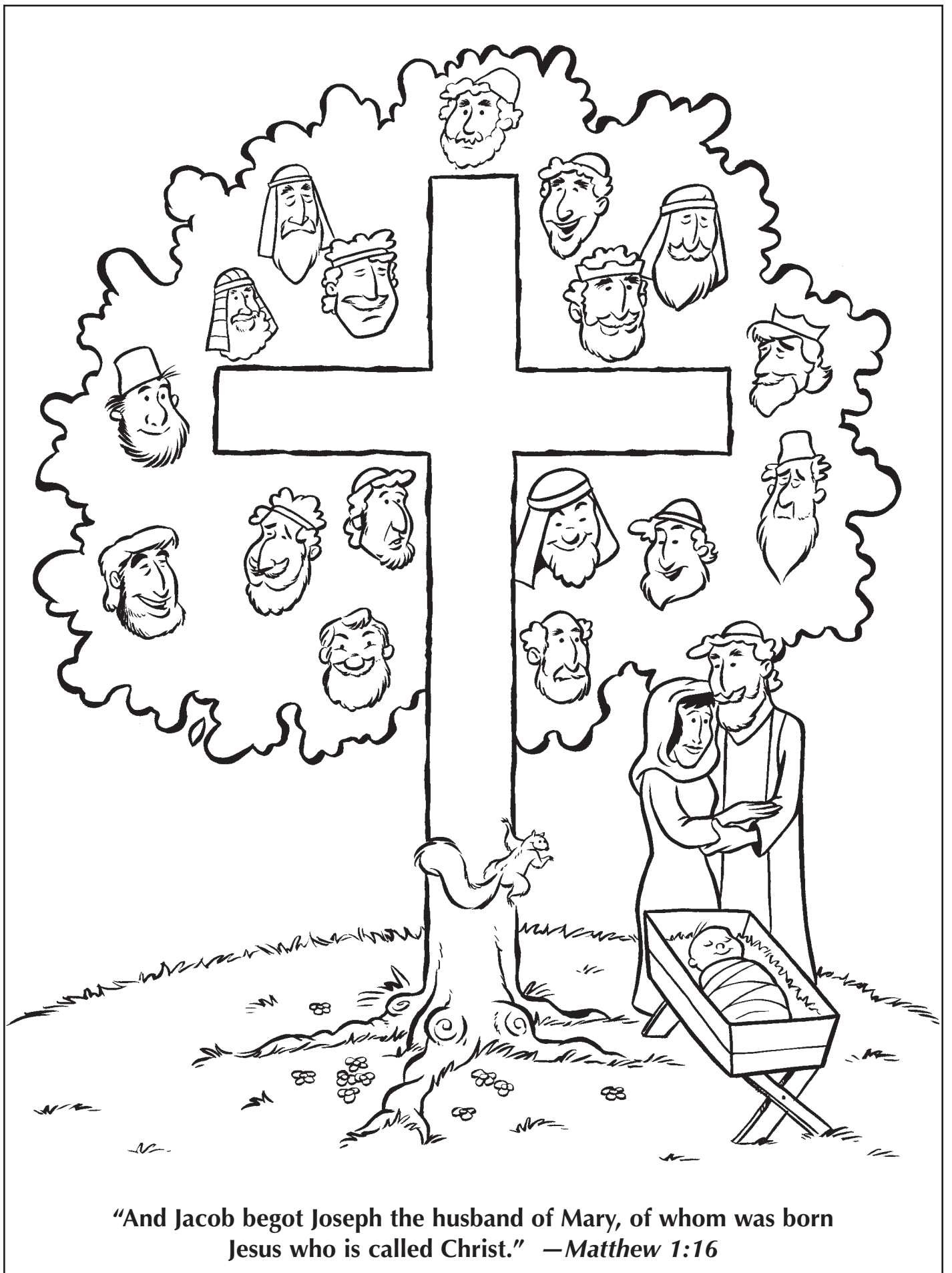
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**"And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born
Jesus who is called Christ." —Matthew 1:16**



