

The Promise Fulfilled

1. Jesus' birth demonstrates that God is faithful through generations.

Matthew 1:1–6 NLT

This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David and of Abraham: Abraham was the father of Isaac.

Isaac was the father of Jacob.

Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers....

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This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David and of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac.

Isaac was the father of Jacob.

Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.

Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah (whose mother was Tamar).

Perez was the father of Hezron.

Hezron was the father of Ram.

Ram was the father of Amminadab.

Amminadab was the father of Nahshon.

Nahshon was the father of Salmon.

Salmon was the father of Boaz (whose mother was Rahab).

Boaz was the father of Obed (whose mother was Ruth).

Obed was the father of Jesse.

Jesse was the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon (whose mother was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah).

2. Our story, past, family tree, and broken chapters do not disqualify us.

They are the very places God weaves His faithfulness.

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Matthew 1:18–19 ESV

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

3. God often works His greatest purposes on the roads we never planned to walk.

Matthew 1:20–25 ESV

But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

4. God’s will often disrupts our plans, but obedience invites us into His purpose.

Small Group Guide: The Promise Fulfilled

Opening Question:

What's something meaningful or funny you've inherited or picked up from your family or past — a tradition, phrase, habit, or belief?

When God Writes the Story

Matthew's account of Jesus' birth opens with a genealogy — a long list of names that, at first glance, might seem like a slow start to a powerful story. But for Jewish readers, this list wasn't boring — it was theological. It told a story of God's faithfulness through generations of both heroes and sinners.

Jesus' family tree includes names tied to scandal (Tamar, Bathsheba), brokenness (Rahab), and outsider status (Ruth). Instead of hiding these names, Matthew highlights them. Why? Because **God's promises don't break when people do**. He works through weakness, not around it.

Joseph's part of the story also reveals this truth: **Obedience to God's call often comes at personal cost**. When Joseph chose to trust God and take Mary as his wife, he was stepping into a future of misunderstanding, risk, and sacrifice — all without knowing the full picture. Still, he obeyed.

Finally, Matthew's structure (three sets of 14 generations) reminds us that **God is never late**. The journey from Abraham to David, to exile, and finally to the Messiah tells us that **even long seasons of silence or struggle don't cancel the promise**. God fulfills what He starts.

For Discussion:

1. Which part of Jesus' family story stands out most to you — and why? (Scandal, brokenness, waiting, obedience, or something else?)

2. Have you ever seen God use a “broken” part of your story — your past, your family, or your failure — for something redemptive?

What did that show you about Him?

3. Is there an area of your life where God is calling you to trust Him or obey Him, even if it costs you something or doesn't make sense yet?

What might it look like to respond like Joseph — quietly but faithfully?