

In the Church, We All FAM

2024-12-16 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Matthew 1:1-17

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Matthew opens his Gospel with a family tree, and it is not a clean one. Tamar is in it. Rahab is in it. David is in it, along with what he did. Pastor Matt's point: God writes his story through messy families, including yours. Many of us call the mess a family curse and read our whole history through it. But the same history can be read with faith, and read that way, it shows a God working a bigger story through both the good and the bad.

To get started

- What is one thing from your family history you would rather not have inherited?

Looking back at the message

The phrase generational curse will come up fast. Let it, then hold it up to the light.

- 1 Pastor Matt asked who has heard the phrase family curse used about their own family. What was it referring to?
- 2 Pastor Matt said we tend to build our identity around the worst thing in our family line, the addiction or the temper or the divorce. How have you done that?
- 3 Pastor Matt described people recreating the Christmas they grew up with, fights included, even when it was miserable the first time. Why do we repeat what hurt us?

OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Matthew 1:1-17. It reads dry until you know who the names belong to.

- 4 Read Matthew 1:1-17. Matthew names several women, which family trees back then never did. Why include them?
- 5 Read Genesis 38 for Tamar's story if you dare. Why would she be in the Messiah's family line?
- 6 David is on the list, and so is what he did to Uriah. What does it mean that the good and the bad are both recorded?
- 7 Read Romans 8:28. What does that verse actually promise, and what does it not? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

The newspaper study is about what you are looking for. Apply it to family history, not just attitude.

- 8 Pastor Matt said people who read their past without faith conclude it is all bad. Which way have you been reading yours?
- 9 What good has come out of your family that you rarely name?
- 10 What pattern would you like to be the one who breaks?
- 11 If God works through imperfect people, what does that change about how you see yourself? OPTIONAL

The group together

Family history is tender. Do not press anyone who does not want to talk.

- 12 Why is it easier to talk about family failures than family blessings?
- 13 How could this group become family for someone whose own family is hard?
- 14 Who in this group could you pray for by name heading into a hard holiday?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What is one part of your past you will start reading with faith instead of only regret?

You might pray about

- For people facing a hard family gathering
- For patterns that need to end in this generation
- For eyes to see what God has already done in our histories