



Matthew's story throws things back all the way to father Abraham. A list of characters past and present, reading a lot like a genealogy textbook – isn't this supposed to be about Jesus? The portrait of Christ we see emerge in this Gospel looks a lot like Moses. What does prophecy have to do with advent?

- Open with prayer.
- If your groups is new, give everyone time to introduce themselves.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What's one thing you're looking forward to in the future?
- Share something new or a highlight from this past week.

REVIEW

Open your Bibles and read from **Matthew 1**.

- Share your favourite points from the weekend sermon. What spoke to you?
- Share a phrase or moment that you related to the most, or a question you may have from the weekend.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who are the significant people in your spiritual upbringing?
- Why does Matthew begin his Gospel by providing us with the names of Jesus' descendants? What's the point? Why was Jesus' family tree important to the Jews? Read Isaiah 9:6-7 and reflect on this passage of Scripture.
- Thinking about the prophecies of the Messiah throughout the Old Testament, Jesus' birth fulfilled these exactly. What does this truth tell us about God and His character?
- Why is it important to have a proper understanding of Jesus as King? In what practical ways did Christ make His kingship known during His life on earth? What are some ways you can make Christ's kingship clear to those around you?
- What will you do this Christmas season to celebrate God's love and grace?
- How do these verses apply to your life? What will you do about it?

PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS

Share what God is doing in your life and spend some time praying for each other's prayer requests.