

## 7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)

**Lesson Plan:** The Genealogy of Jesus - Pt. 1

**Lesson Goal:** God's sovereignty can be seen in the use of imperfect, messed up, flawed, broken people to bring about his plan.

**Question:** What can you learn about a person from their family?

Prayer.

Discuss question on board. (5 minutes)

The story of Jesus begins in Matthew's gospel with some details about his family and genealogy. What is a genealogy? (a line of descent traced continuously from an ancestor)

Matthew 1:1-17 (sing/play it for the students - Andrew Peterson's "Matthew's Begats")

Take a look at this genealogy and tell me what you notice.

### Notable features include:

- The "genealogy" of Jesus - The tribal organization of Hebrew society, with its strong emphasis on family relationships, demanded accurate genealogical lists. Status in the community and before the law depended on one's personal identity as belonging to a certain family and tribe.
- Identify Jesus as "Christ" (Messiah)  
Messiah - literally means "anointed one"; The coming of a figure chosen and anointed by God to deliver and redeem his people; would encapsulate and fulfill the role of priest, prophet, and king.  
Jesus (Hebrew Yeshua/Joshua) - means "YHWH saves" or "The LORD is salvation"
- "Son of David" - Jesus is the fulfillment of the promise God made to David; Jesus is the rightful heir to David's throne
- "Son of Abraham" - Matthew is a "Jewish" Gospel and is focusing on the beginnings of the Jewish people; Jesus is the fulfillment of God's covenant with Abraham; significant that it starts with Abraham (not Adam)
- Focus of list is on the final person in the list (typically in OT, it is on the first - oldest)
- Generations are split into 3 sets of 14 (Abraham to David; David to Babylonian Captivity; Captivity to Jesus)
  - multiple of seven (completeness)
  - Numerical equivalent of letters (d=4, v=6, d=4)
  - focus on David and kingship: group 1 - leading up to David  
group 2 - decay and downfall  
group 3 - quiet restoration
- Inclusion of Women - remarkable in such a patriarchal culture (not very common)

### **“Knots” in the Family Tree**

Not all the people in Jesus’ family tree are the pretty, cleaned up kind that you want to bring and introduce to your momma. This is a distinct feature of this list - it is not whitewashed. Matthew is showing the family, warts and all.

**Abraham** - lied and passed his wife off as his sister on two different occasions

**Jacob** - even though he was a Patriarch, Jacob’s name means “deceiver” (deceived his brother for his birthright, deceived his father for his blessing, deceived his uncle to steal his livestock)

**Tamar** - when her husband Er died (because he was evil), her brother-in-law (Onan) was supposed to take her as a wife and have kids so that the child could be an heir; he did not fulfill his responsibility; Tamar seduced her father-in-law (Judah) to have children (Genesis 38)

**Rahab** - she was a Canaanite (enemies of God’s people), a prostitute in Jericho who hid the spies that came into Jericho; because of her help, she and her family was spared when Joshua and the Israelites destroyed Jericho (Joshua 2)

**Ruth** (Moabite) - the Moabites were descendants of an incestuous relationship between Lot and his older daughter (Genesis 19:30-38)

**David** - David was guilty of racketeering, adultery, and murder

**Bathsheba** (Wife of Uzziah) - she had a child with David even though she was married to someone else

**Solomon** - 700 wives, 300 concubines

**Manasseh** - was considered the “worst king” of all the kings in Israel; guilty of idolatry and worshipping false gods

**Mary** - even though she was pure and innocent, she had a pretty bad reputation around town because of the miraculous pregnancy

All of this goes to show that God uses imperfect, messed up, flawed, broken people to bring about his plan. This is a great example of God’s sovereignty.

There is a second genealogical record for Jesus in the book of Luke. There are some significant differences between the two lists.

Major differences between the two lists

- Luke’s Gospel goes all the way back to Adam
- Luke’s is presented in reverse order (starting with Jesus and going backwards)
- Luke names 41 descendants of David as ancestors of Jesus, whereas Matthew gives only 26.

How do we account for the differences?

- Matthew traces Joseph’s ancestry, while Luke traces Mary’s

- Audience - Matthew is emphasizing Jesus as the Jewish Messiah; Luke goes all the way back to Adam because he is writing for a Gentile audience; Jesus is for everyone, not just the Jews
  - Intermarriage within the confines of the royal family
  - Levirate marriage (brother marrying his brother's widow to give her children/heirs) - therefore we have a biological list and "legal" list
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**Lesson Summary /Review:**

Students should review and highlight the following vocabulary terms and concepts from this lesson in their notes:

- Abraham
- Who were the five women in Jesus' genealogy?