

WEEK 4: GENEALOGY OF CHRIST

HIGH SCHOOL

GOALS

Why is Christ's genealogy included in Matthew 1?
Who is the Messiah?

LESSON

Materials Needed: White board, dry erase markers

Extended Learning Opportunity for Teachers:

“Why does St Matthew List Joseph's Genealogy”

[https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/searchthescriptureslive/
why_does_st_matthew_list_josephs_genealogy](https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/searchthescriptureslive/why_does_st_matthew_list_josephs_genealogy)

CHRIST'S GENEALOGY

Matthew carefully organized his gospel, every part of it has a purpose. Why did he start his gospel by listing the genealogy of Jesus as he traced His ancestors back to David and Abraham? Why did Matthew list David first when Abraham was born long before him?

The Jews had been waiting a long time for the Messiah - the one who would save them - and they knew the Messiah would come from the line (descendants) of King David. For the Jews, keeping a detailed record of their genealogy, especially if they were descendants of King David, was incredibly important to them. Matthew purposely includes the genealogy of Christ because, as we learned last week, he wrote his gospel for the Jews. He is emphasizing that Jesus fulfills this prophecy - hence the reason Matthew lists David before Abraham in the genealogy - and Matthew will continue to highlight throughout his gospel that Jesus fulfills all of the prophecies as the Messiah of the Jews.

What does Messiah mean? Why were the Jews looking for the Messiah? Messiah is a Hebrew word and it meant “anointed one” and was used in reference to kings and the high priest. The term Messiah was used to mean a special person who would come and

establish a kingdom. The Jews were waiting for the Messiah foretold about in the Old Testament prophecies who would establish an everlasting kingdom. Some people understood this to mean a spiritual kingdom, but most thought this meant a kingdom here on earth. As we will study this entire year, we know that Jesus came to conquer death and provide the opportunity for each and every one of us eternal life with Him in the Kingdom of Heaven.

FAMILY GENEALOGY PROJECT

If any of your students brought in a family tree, you can let them share and tell about their project with the class. Then they can be hung in the hallway afterwards.

It is not as common these days to keep a long list of our ancestors. What are some of the reasons why people would want to remember the names of their great grandparents and those who lived before them?

We can continue to pray for our ancestors, just as we hope our family that lives after us will continue to pray for us when we have fallen asleep in the Lord.

We can also share stories with our children, grandchildren, and possibly even our great grandchildren about some of the struggles our parents, grandparents, and great grandparents went through in order for us to be where we are today. It might have been a war, an epidemic / pandemic of illness, immigrating to a new country and establishing their family there...there are many, many stories that shape our families. How did our ancestors place God at the center of all of their struggle? Did they help establish an Orthodox Church here in the United States? Could you find your grandma peacefully sitting in her chair with the knots of a prayer rope slowly passing through her aged fingers?

Why are our families important? Do they help support us? How? Do they have guidance and wisdom to offer us? Why?

WEEK 4: GENEALOGY OF CHRIST

MIDDLE SCHOOL

GOALS

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Who is the Messiah?

LESSON

Materials Needed: White board, dry erase markers

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why_does_st_matthew_list_josephs_genealogy](https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/searchthescriptureslive/why_does_st_matthew_list_josephs_genealogy)

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WEEK 4: GENEALOGY OF CHRIST

3RD & 4TH GRADE

GOALS

Why is Christ's genealogy included in Matthew 1?
Who is the Messiah?

LESSON

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CHRIST'S GENEALOGY

What does Messiah mean? Messiah was a word used for those who were establishing a kingdom. At that time, kings were not crowned like we see on tv today. They had oil poured over them. They were anointed. We are anointed with oil as well when we are baptized and when we receive Holy Unction.

What is a prophecy? A prophecy is a divinely inspired (meaning it came from God) prediction of something that will happen in the future. There was a prophecy that said a Messiah would come and form an everlasting kingdom. Most people thought this meant a kingdom here on earth. The Jews were waiting for a mighty king to come. Some realized this prophecy did not mean an earthly kingdom, but a spiritual one instead - the eternal Kingdom of Heaven.

Matthew purposely includes the genealogy of Christ in his gospel because, as we learned last week, he is writing for the Jews. Only the Jews were waiting for the Messiah and Matthew is emphasizing to the Jews that Jesus fulfills the prophecy. Jesus is the Messiah and he is descended from King David. This is why Matthew lists David first - for emphasis.

ICON STUDY

Icon of Prophet David: King David was a great king and prophet of the Old Testament. He ruled over Israel around 1000 B.C. and was extremely dedicated to God. He got rid of the idols in all of his land and wrote many of the Psalms we have in the Bible.

Icon of the Resurrection of Christ: In the center of the icon is Christ pulling Adam and Eve from their tombs. On the left of Jesus is **King David** and his son, King Solomon, along with St. John the Baptist. There are so many people that could be depicted in this icon and King David is chosen to be one of them.

FAMILY GENEALOGY PROJECT

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WEEK 4: GENEALOGY OF CHRIST

1ST & 2ND GRADE

GOALS

Why is Christ's genealogy included in Matthew 1?
Who is the Messiah?

LESSON

Materials Needed: Icons of Jesus

Extended Learning Opportunity for Teachers:

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CLASS ROUTINE

Continue routine - move photo, light candle, venerate icon, prayer before beginning

WHO IS THE MESSIAH?

God made a promise to the Jews that a king would come and make a kingdom that would never end. Most of the Jews thought this meant a mighty king would be coming and this kingdom on earth was going to be amazing!

The Jews waited a long, long time for that person to arrive and Saint Matthew explains over and over again to the Jews that Jesus is that person! Jesus is called the Messiah. This means Jesus is the one who came to save the people and establish the eternal Kingdom of Heaven.

We learn all about this when we go to church during Holy Week - Jesus died on the Cross, but He conquered death and came back to life for the benefit of each and every one of us.

FAMILY GENEALOGY PROJECT

If any of your students brought in a family tree, you can let them share and tell about their project with the class. Then they can be hung in the hallway afterwards.

Our families are very important to us. They are so important to us that sometimes people keep track of the names of their parents, grandparents, their great grandparents, and sometimes every their great-great grandparents. There are many times our great grandparents die before we are born or when we are very little. We don't really know them or their names. This is why we write them down - so we can remember who came before us!

We can also pray for our parents, grandparents, and all those who came before us in our prayers at home and at church. Our parents and grandparents also have many interesting stories to tell us. We can learn a lot from these stories!

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Continue learning to sing 'Lord, have mercy' in multiple languages







WEEK 4: GENEALOGY OF CHRIST

PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN

GOALS

Why is Christ's genealogy included in Matthew 1?
Who is the Messiah?

LESSON

Materials Needed: Icon of the Theotokos, Family Worksheet

Extended Learning Opportunity for Teachers:

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CLASS ROUTINE

Continue routine - move photo, light candle, venerate icon, prayer before beginning

JESUS' FAMILY

Who was Jesus' mom? Her name is Mary, but we call her the Theotokos. This is a special name we have for her. In icons, most of the time the Theotokos is holding baby Jesus in her arms.

Where do we have an icon of the Theotokos holding Jesus in our church?

OUR FAMILIES

Our families are very important to us. God gave us a rule in the Ten Commandments to obey our parents because our parents are here to protect and teach us.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

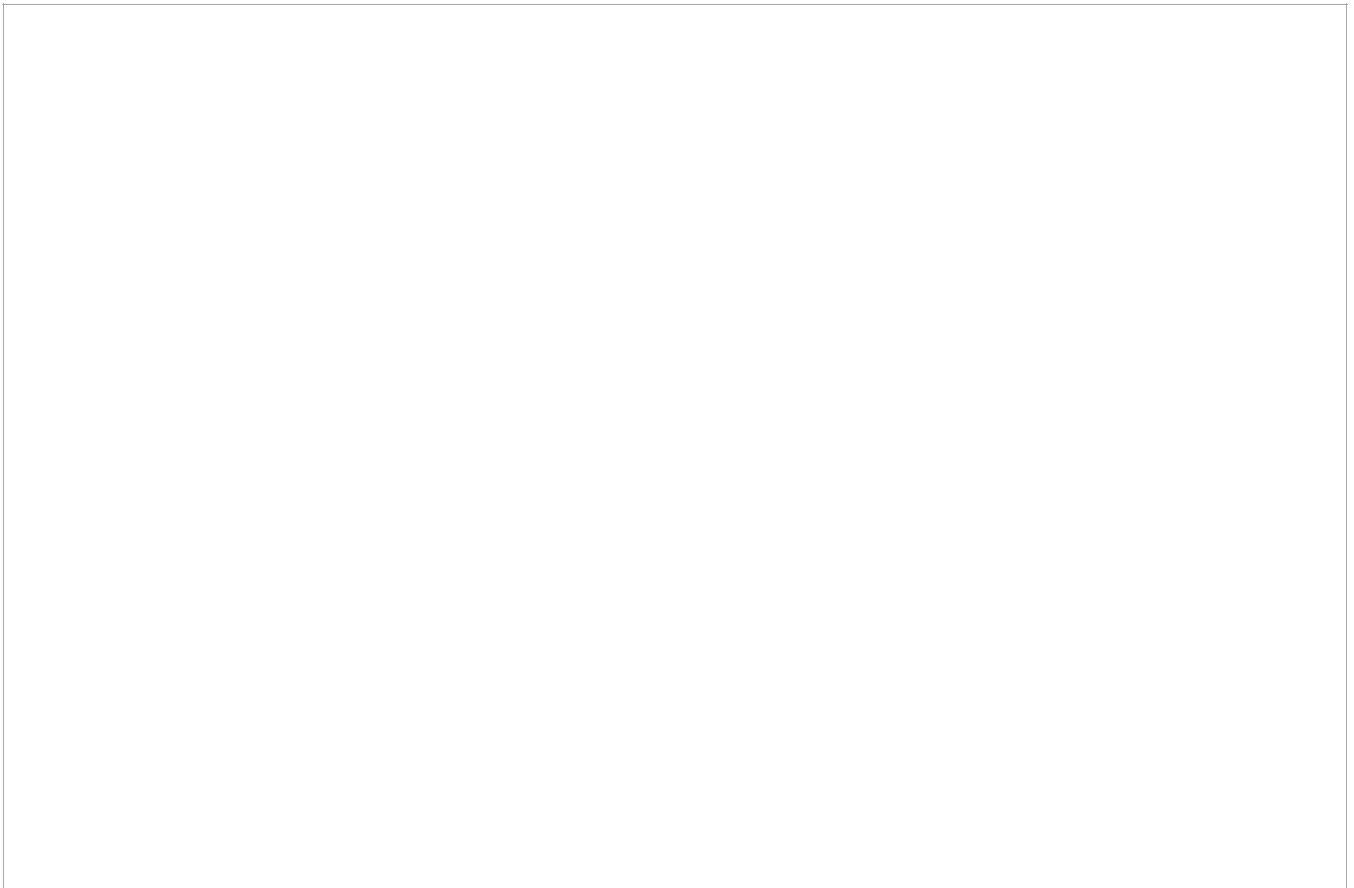
Continue learning to sing 'Lord, have mercy' in multiple languages

Name _____

MATTHEW 1: CHRIST'S GENEALOGY

The Theotokos is Jesus' mom.

My Family:



I love my mom because _____

_____.

I love my dad because _____

_____.

