

## PRAYER

- Thank God for how Jesus was part of a great plan to save you. Pray that you will understand more of God's faithfulness through this story.
- Ask God for the grace to believe in His promises to you and your family. Pray that you will experience how everlasting His faithfulness is.
- Pray that God will open doors for you to tell others about Jesus not just as a religious figure, but as the person whom God promised to send to save us.

## NOTES

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## REDISCOVERING CHRISTMAS

WEEK 1

## Jesus the Messiah

### WARM-UP

- What is something that everyone knows about you?
- Have you ever received something you had been looking forward to? How did you feel when you got it?
- When you make a promise, do you do something to assure the other person that you will fulfill your promise? What is it?

### WORD

*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. MATTHEW 1:1*

The Gospel according to Matthew was written to the Hebrews when they were under the rule of the Romans. The Hebrews had no king and no country of their own, for several hundred years. All they had left was their religious law and the words of their prophets. The prophets had spoken of a Messiah, an Anointed One, whom God would send to save them. In this Gospel, Matthew wanted to show the Hebrews that the Messiah, called Jesus Christ, had already come to them.



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## 1 Son of Abraham

*"And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."*

**GENESIS 17:7**

The Hebrews called themselves children of Abraham because they were descended from Abraham and his son, Isaac. Because of their recorded history, they knew that God promised to be forever faithful to them. Their situation under the Romans, however, seemed to tell a different story. Have you ever been in a situation where you doubted God's promises to you or your family? How did you feel? How did you respond?

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## 2 Son of David

*"<sup>11</sup>When your days are fulfilled to walk with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>12</sup>He shall build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever."* **1 CHRONICLES 17:11,12**

God's promise to David was very literal for the Hebrews. Now they knew that a king, a descendant of David, was part of God's plan and promise to establish them and be faithful to them forever. However, there had been no Hebrew king for a few hundred years when the Gospel according to Matthew was written. Have you ever received an answer to your prayers that looked very different from how you expected it to be? What happened? What did God show you through this?

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## 3 Jesus Christ

*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.* **MATTHEW 1:1**

Matthew wanted to grab the Hebrews' attention with the very first line of the Gospel he wrote. He was declaring that God was faithful to them, that He was still keeping His everlasting covenant with them. And God was doing it through Christ (another word for Messiah), and He would establish Jesus' kingdom and throne forever. When you receive an answer to your prayers, how do you feel? How do you want to react?

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### APPLICATION

- Do you believe that Jesus Christ came to earth to save you? Why or why not? Would you want to accept and believe in it today?
- Have you ever seen the Bible story as the story of how Christ came to save us? What is something you can do this week to start learning more about this?
- How can you tell others about Jesus' part in God's master plan to save not just the Hebrews, but all of us as well? How does it prove God's faithfulness to us?