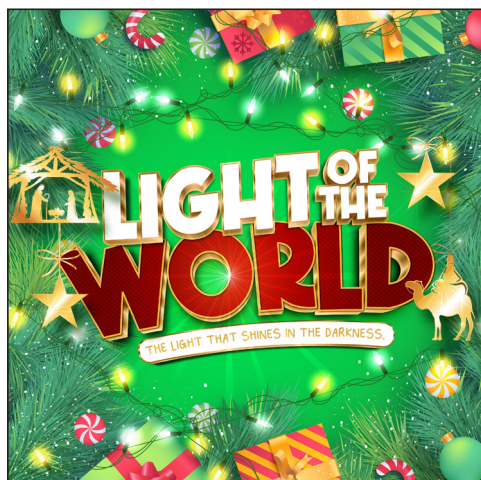




THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 1:1–17

FOCUS VERSES: Isaiah 7:14, Romans 3:23, Romans 8:28

Summary: Family histories were important in Bible times. The New Testament begins with the genealogy of Joseph’s family. The listing shows that Jesus is a descendant of Abraham and David, just like God had promised. Jesus’ family members were not perfect. They were human and had their challenges, just like our families. Jesus was the Son of God, born to a human family. He is fully man and fully God.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

(LUKE 2:11)



Jesus brings hope.

We will go deeper in God’s truth by answering these questions:

HE

DID GOD ALWAYS HAVE A PLAN TO RESCUE HIS PEOPLE?

God had a plan from the beginning to send Jesus through an earthly family to save people from sin.

WE

WHY AREN’T FAMILIES PERFECT?

Every person in every family sins and needs a Savior. We can have hope because God uses imperfect families for His perfect plan.

ME

HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

Kids will reflect and respond to the truth they learned about God.

Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: THE OVEREXTENDED FAMILY

Kids' schedules are as packed, if not more so, than the schedules of the adults caring for them, and some caregivers simply have more going on than they have time for each week. So instead of focusing on when they are absent, let's celebrate the wins when they make it to church.

- **Celebrate Church Attendance.** Instead of texting when their kid misses church, text this caregiver on a day their kid attends and share what a privilege it is to have their family with you. Choose to celebrate their presence.
- **Applaud the Progress.** Try to catch this caregiver at drop-off or pick-up and share with them ways you see God really working in their kid's life. Celebrate the important role their kid plays in your group, and what a joy it is to have them there.
- **Meet them Where They Are.** If you know this caregiver is at the ball field three nights a week, grab a coffee/snack and go there to cheer them on, and connect with them.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: FAMILY DRAMA

Surveys reveal that nearly 25 percent of Americans are estranged from family members.* These disconnects impact kids' relationships with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other extended family. It is likely that the kids in your group come from a wide range of family backgrounds. Remember that every family has dynamics that are unique and often unknown to others. As you discuss Jesus' family and background in today's lesson, be aware that some kids have positive impressions of extended family and some families may be drama-filled. Give kids a safe space to share about their families. Remember, if a kid shares something that raises concern of neglect or abuse, immediately follow your church's policy for reporting. Help kids discover that no family is perfect, including Jesus' earthly family. Families are made up of people who sin, and that is why we all needed Jesus to come.

*For more resources on this topic, check out:

britecurriculum.com/resources

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Descendant: a person's children, children's children and everyone who comes after

Hypostatic Union: Jesus is both fully divine and fully human

Genealogy: a person's family line and history

Savior: the only One who can save us from our sins

Large Group ROADMAP

1**WELCOME**
(8 MINUTES)**SUPPLIES:** Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, 3 boxes, 25-30 silly Christmas props, timer**2****FIND IT IN
THE BIBLE**
(2 MINUTES)**SUPPLIES:** Bibles, teaching slides**3****BIBLE
TEACHING**
(10 MINUTES)**THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS**
(MATTHEW 1:1-17)**SUPPLIES:** Bible, teaching slides, printable pages, scissors, 1 roll of green crepe paper, ornament hooks (1 pack), hole punch, tape**4****REVIEW**
(8 MINUTES)**SUPPLIES:** Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides, 4 boxes, marker, individually wrapped candy canes (1 per kid)**5****LARGE GROUP
WRAP-UP**
(5 MINUTES)**SUPPLIES:** Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

Welcome



Say: During the Christmas season, some families send Christmas cards to friends and relatives. For this game, three groups will pretend to take silly family Christmas card photos. Each “family” will receive a box of Christmas props and a minute to plan a fun pose. Then each family will come to the front and freeze in their Christmas card pose for everyone to see. We will then vote for our favorite pose!

Recruit 15 volunteers. Group the kids into three families of five and give each group a box of Christmas props. Allow a minute for the families to plan their pose. Call families one at a time to the front to “take” their photo. Ask everyone to vote on their favorite pose.

Say: Today we’re talking about Jesus’ family. Jesus came to Earth as a real baby and had a real family made up of all kinds of people. They weren’t perfect—they were a lot like us. Let’s get started and learn more.

SUPPLIES:

Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, 3 boxes, 25-30 silly Christmas props, timer

PREP:

Place an equal number of Christmas props in each box.

LEADER TIP:

Use easy supplies like tinsel, bows, ornaments, crepe paper or jingle bells as Christmas props.



INTRO VIDEO

Play Intro Video then transition into discussion.

Say: That looks like a really fun bus to ride on!

Discuss: Have you ever seen a really cool Christmas light display?

Say: Christmas lights can help us remember the True Light—Jesus—who brought hope into the world. Today’s Brite Idea is: Jesus brings hope.

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea

Show teaching slide: He/We/Me Questions

TODAY WE WILL ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS:



Did God always have a plan to rescue His people?



Why aren’t families perfect?

AT THE END OF OUR TIME TODAY, THE QUESTION YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER IS:



How is God inviting me to respond?

FIND IT
IN THE



Bible

WHAT IS GOD'S BIGGER STORY?

Show teaching slide: God's Big Story

Say: The Bible is real and true. God gave us the Bible so we could know Him. The Bible is filled with many books and stories, but they are all a part of one BIG story — God's story.

Creation: God is the one true God and He has always existed. He is the Creator of all things, including you and me. He is good, He loves us, and we are made in His image.

Fall: Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God. Sin broke the world, and people were separated from God. People could not fix their sin problem on their own.

Redemption: God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross, to take the punishment for our sins, and to rise from the dead to conquer death. When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, our relationship with God is made right again through His grace, and He gives us new life.

Restoration: When we walk with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit and learn God's Word, He renews us. One day, Jesus will return to renew all things.

WHERE IS TODAY'S BIBLE STORY?

Show teaching image: The People Celebrate on the Temple Foundation

Say: Last week we learned about the exiles' return to Jerusalem and how God works through His people.

Show teaching slide: Books of the Bible

Say: This week's story comes from the book of Matthew. Matthew is the first book of the New Testament, found between the books of Malachi and Mark.

Show teaching slide: Find It in the Bible Timeline

Say: This story falls in the "Arrival of Jesus" period of the Bible. Today's true story tells us what happened during the events leading up to Jesus' birth!

Show teaching slide: Biblical Theme

Say: This month we are focusing on the truth that Jesus is our Savior.

Say: This week we are discovering together that God used imperfect people to bring His perfect Son Jesus to Earth.

LET'S FIND IT IN OUR BIBLES!

Open your Bible and show the kids the title page for the book of Matthew. Help kids turn in their Bibles to today's Bible passage (Matthew 1:1–17).

Bible TEACHING

THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS MATTHEW 1:1-17



PRAY: God, You sent Jesus to Earth through a real family—a family full of not-so-perfect people. If You can use them, You can use us! Help us listen and hear Your truth today. Amen.

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, printable pages, scissors, 1 roll of green crepe paper, ornament hooks (1 pack), hole punch, tape

PREP:

Print the printable pages and cut out. Punch holes in the top of each ornament and secure hooks to top of each one.

LEADER TIP:

When selecting volunteers to wrap the crepe paper, make sure everyone involved is the same gender.

Say: Today we are talking about Jesus' family tree! A family tree is a picture that represents all the members of a family across many generations. And since we are talking about Jesus' family tree, and it is December, I think we should make our own Christmas family tree! First, we need a volunteer who can stand as still as a tree.

Call an older kid to the front to be the "tree." Have them stand with their arms at their side as still as possible.

Say: Now we need two volunteers to turn our volunteer into a tree!

Select two volunteers to wrap the "tree" in green crepe paper from head to toe, making sure not to cover their mouth and nose. Use tape to secure the crepe paper. Your two new volunteers can sit down after wrapping.

Say: Finally, I need more volunteers to hang some special ornaments on our tree.

Select up to 11 volunteers to hang the "Jesus' Genealogy Ornaments" on the crepe paper.

Say: Family was extremely important to the Israelite people, and knowing their genealogy, or lists of family members, was important too. The second half of the Bible, the New Testament, begins this way:

Read Matthew 1:1 directly from the Bible: *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.*

Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Say: This genealogy, or list of Jesus' family, shows God's faithfulness to keep the promises He gave in the Old Testament. He had promised that the Savior would come from the families of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah and David. God had a plan from the beginning to send Jesus through an earthly family to save people from sin.

As you mention Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Judah, remove each ornament and show it to the kids. Do not show David yet. Then hang the ornaments back on the crepe paper.

Say: Matthew lists all of these men in Jesus' family history. God showed that Jesus was the true Savior because He was their descendant, just like God had promised.

Say: Jesus' family also shows that God's plan couldn't be stopped by people's mistakes. Some of the people listed in the genealogy of Jesus' family had messed up in big ways. Some had lied. Several deceived others. King David even had a man killed so he could steal his wife and cover up his own sin.

Show teaching illustration: King David.

Take the David ornament off the tree and show the kids, then hang it back on the crepe paper.

Say: Jesus' earthly family was not filled with perfect people. They were humans, just like you and me, who sinned and needed a Savior.

Say: God reminds us through the record of Jesus' family that all people are important to Him and part of His plan. The list includes four women, and women were never included in ancient genealogies. Matthew included names like Tamar and Bathsheba.

As you mention Tamar and Bathsheba remove each ornament and show it to the kids. Then hang the ornaments back on the crepe paper.

Say: Jesus' family also included Ruth and Rahab who were not Israelites but were women whom God used in big ways and brought into His family.

As you mention Ruth and Rahab remove each ornament and show it to the kids. Then hang the ornaments back on the crepe paper.

 (CONTINUED)

Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Say: The list also includes people we don't know anything about, but they were a part of His perfect plan.

As you mention people we don't know about, remove the Azor and Achim ornaments and show them to the kids. Then hang the ornaments back on the crepe paper.

Say: Finally, Jesus' family history shows that He was real and He was human.

Show teaching illustration: Family Line.

Say: Jesus had a real family who really did live in history. There is a record of His human ancestors. He was a real person. He would be fully God, but He would also be fully human so that He could be the perfect sacrifice for our sin.

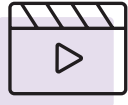
Take the Jesus ornament off the tree and show the kids. Continue holding during the Point to Jesus section.

Show teaching slide: Point to Jesus.



POINT TO JESUS

Say: Jesus came to Earth as a real person. He came as a baby and grew up just like everyone else. However, He is fully human and fully God. As a human He could take our place and take the punishment for our sin. But only God could have the power to defeat death and sin and make a way for us to live with Him forever. Jesus was fully human and fully God so that He could be the perfect sacrifice for our sin when He died on the cross.



BIBLE REVIEW VIDEO

Play Bible Review Video. Play the game below using teaching slides: Review Game

SUPPLIES:

Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides, 4 boxes, marker, individually wrapped candy canes (1 per kid)

PREP:

Label each box with a different letter: a, b, c, d.

INSTRUCTIONS: Give each kid a wrapped candy cane. Kids will put their candy cane in the corresponding box to indicate their answer. Reset after each question.

- 1. God's plans couldn't be stopped, even by this king who stole a man's wife and then had him killed:**

A. Abraham
B. Judah
C. Isaac
D. David

- 2. The four women included in the list of Jesus' family prove:**

A. All people are important to God.
B. Matthew was daring in his writing.
C. Ruth and Rahab were true Israelites.
D. There aren't any women in the genealogy.

- 3. There are some names listed in Matthew 1 that:**

A. Shouldn't be there
B. Are missing and should be added
C. Are not in Jesus' family
D. We don't know anything about

The list also includes people we don't know anything about, but they were a part of His perfect plan.

- 4. Jesus came to Earth:**

A. Fully God
B. Fully Man
C. From a real family
D. All of the above

- 5. Did God always have a plan to rescue His people?**

A. God's plan started with King David.
B. God had a plan from the beginning.
C. God's plan started in the New Testament.
D. God's plan started with Abraham.

God had a plan from the beginning to send Jesus through an earthly family to save people from sin.

- 6. Why aren't families perfect?**

A. Families are perfect.
B. Families should pretend to be perfect.
C. Every person in every family sins and needs a Savior.
D. Families should try to be better than their neighbors.

We can have hope because God uses imperfect families for His perfect plan.



Wrap – Up

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea



SUPPLIES:

Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

PREP:

None

Show teaching slide: He Question and Answer



Did God always have a plan to rescue His people?

God had a plan from the beginning to send Jesus through an earthly family to save people from sin.

Show teaching slide: We Question and Answer



Why aren't families perfect?

Every person in every family sins and needs a Savior. We can have hope because God uses imperfect families for His perfect plan.



MONTHLY Memory Verse

Choose an older kid to look up the verse and read it aloud to the group. Have the whole group repeat it together.

Show teaching slide: Memory Verse

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

(LUKE 2:11)



VERSE VIDEO

Play Memory Verse Video after the verse is read.



PRAY: God, thank You for using imperfect people to accomplish big things. We are imperfect, but You are always perfect and good! Help us to trust You and live like we believe You use people to accomplish Your plans. Amen.