



THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS

BIBLE PASSAGE *MATTHEW 1:1-17*

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.

Today's Brite Idea is: Jesus brings hope.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

*Unto you is born
this day a Savior.*

(LUKE 2:11)



BIG QUESTION

Why was Jesus born? To save us!



Jesus is hope.



We can have
hope in Jesus.



I can have
hope in Jesus.

LEADER TRAINING: EMPOWER PARENTS

Encouragement is one of the simplest yet most powerful ways to partner with parents in raising kids who know and love Jesus. Even small gestures of affirmation can help parents feel equipped, valued, and supported, reminding them that they are not alone as disciplinarians. When leaders take time to notice and share positive moments, it strengthens both the parent-kid bond and the preschooler's faith.

- **Celebrate wins often.** A quick text or note about a kid's kindness, curiosity or new skill encourages parents and reinforces God's work in their home.
- **Highlight growth, not perfection.** Pointing out small steps (like sharing toys or praying at snack time) helps parents see progress, not just challenges.
- **Model partnership, not judgment.** Words of encouragement communicate that you are a co-laborer, not a critic, and invite parents into the ministry of their kid's faith.
- **Connect to God's story.** Remind parents that every moment of growth reflects God's grace and that your encouragement points them to His delight in their kids.

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 kids may not. Provide a safe place for kids to share about their families. 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 need Jesus.

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Genealogy: list of one's family members

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

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources.

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BELONG

Small Group (15 MINUTES)

GOAL: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

BLOCK BY BLOCK

SUPPLIES: Blocks (1 per kid)

OR

PASS THE HOPE

SUPPLIES: Beanbag

2

BIBLE TEACHING

Large Group (20 MINUTES)

THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS

(MATTHEW 1:1-17)

SUPPLIES: Bible, teaching slides, teaching pictures (printed/shown from teaching slides), video player, music player

3

BELIEVE

Small Group (10 MINUTES)

GOAL: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

MEMORY VERSE MOVEMENT

SUPPLIES: Music player, Memory Verse Song, scarves (1 per kid)

OR

HOPE CLAP

SUPPLIES: None

4

BECOME

Small Group (15 MINUTES)

GOAL: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

NAME BLESSING STRIP

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, cardstock, scissors (prep), stickers (4 per kid)

OR

HOPE IN JESUS

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies



BLOCK BY BLOCK

SUPPLIES:

Blocks (1 per kid)

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP: If you don't have enough blocks, use plastic cups instead.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For kids with fine motor needs, allow the option to build against the wall or with support as needed (e.g., use bricks that connect, have an adult nearby, etc.).

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can you each tell us your name? *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Gather kids together and pass out one block to each kid.*
2. **Say:** Let's build a tower block by block! Each of you will help us make a big tower by adding your block(s).
3. **Say:** When it's your turn, say, "Jesus loves me!" Then carefully place your block on the stack. Let's see how tall we can build it together!
4. *Choose a kid to go first. Then make sure each kid gets a turn.*
5. **Ask:** Who is Jesus?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Today we are learning about Jesus' family. God used each family, one by one, to one day bring Jesus into the world! Jesus came and gave everyone hope. Let's learn more about this hope together.



PASS THE HOPE

SUPPLIES:

Beanbag

PREP:

None

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For added structure during a floor activity, designate a specific spot for kids to sit or allow for a chair with the group.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can you each tell us your name? *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Gather kids to sit in a circle.*
2. **Say:** Let's pass this beanbag around the circle and say, "Jesus brings hope!"
3. *Demonstrate by holding the beanbag and saying the phrase.*
4. **Say:** Pass the beanbag carefully to your friend after you say, "Jesus brings hope!"
5. *Guide kids as needed to pass the beanbag and say the phrase. Then repeat and pass in the opposite direction of the circle.*
6. **Ask:** Do you know what hope is?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Hope is believing in something to be true. Jesus is hope and gives us hope. Let's learn more about this hope and about Jesus in today's Bible story.

INTRO:

Play Countdown Video and guide kids to sit together for large group teaching.

WELCOME:

Say: Hello everyone! I'm so glad you are here today! Today, we will learn something very IMPORTANT about Jesus.

RECAP FROM *Last Week*

Say: Last week we talked about the return of the exiles and discovered together that God works through His people.

Show teaching image: Nehemiah Leads the Rebuilding of the Wall.

Say: Today, we will learn a true story from the Bible about Jesus' family and how they prove that Jesus brings hope.

? BIG QUESTION

Say: Let's take a look at this month's Big Question. Can you help me do a drumroll? Ready? 1, 2, 3 ... drumroll!

Show the Big Question Teaching Image.



PLAY FIND IT IN THE *Bible Song*

Say: Why was Jesus born? We will find out more in today's Bible story!

Play the "Find It in the Bible" song.

Hold up a Bible.

Say: Who can tell me the name of this book? *Allow kids to respond.*

Say: Yes! This book is called the Bible. The Bible is the most important book of all. The Bible is full of true stories about how God takes care of His people and loves them. Today we will hear a story from the New Testament in the book of Matthew. The New Testament is filled with lots of stories about Jesus and how He came to Earth to save us!

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, teaching pictures (printed/shown from teaching slides), video player, music player

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP:

This story incorporates standing and movement. Allow kids to move and shake and wiggle while still maintaining order.

THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS (MATTHEW 1:1-17)

Say: Today's true story from the Bible comes from the book of Matthew. Let's open up the Bible to Matthew chapter 1. Who can help me? *Have a kid help you open up the Bible and then show everyone else.*

Say: Today we are talking about Jesus' family tree! Can everyone stand up and pretend to be trees? Wiggle your fingers like leaves in the wind!

Say: Now, a family tree is not like the trees you see planted in the ground. It's like a picture or symbol of where someone comes from—their mom and dad, grandparents, great-grandparents and more reaching out like a tree branch. Can you stretch your branches wayyyyy out?

Say: Jesus had a mom and dad! He also had grandparents and great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents! The second part of the Bible is called the New Testament and it starts with a list of Jesus' family going back a loonnnng way. Let's all stretch our branches even longer!

Show teaching image: Family Line.

Say: The long list is important. The first part of the Bible—the Old Testament—made promises about how Jesus would come to Earth. Some of those promises said He would come from the families of Abraham *wiggle one finger*, Issac *wiggle two fingers*, Jacob *wiggle three fingers*, Judah *wiggle four fingers* and David *wiggle five fingers*. And those names are right here in the list of Jesus' family members! God keeps all of His promises! Everyone shout, "Yay!!!"

Say: Guess what—the people in Jesus' family weren't perfect. Some of them made big mistakes! People like King David made bad choices that hurt others.

Show teaching image: King David.

Say: Jesus' family is full of people who did things, said things and even thought things that

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Genealogy: list of one's family members

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

 (CONTINUED)



disobeyed God. Sadly, we do too. The people in Jesus' family were just like you and me! Whisper to your neighbor, "They were just like you."

Say: There are girls and boys on the list. There are people from many countries on the list. There are even names we've never heard of before in Jesus' family. We might not know much about them, but God does. Everyone is important to God! Turn to your friend and whisper, "You're important."

Say: Here's what we can know for sure: Jesus was a real person from a real family! We can see their names listed in Matthew! He understands us because He became one of us!

Show teaching slide: Point to Jesus.



POINT TO JESUS

Say: Jesus was all God and all person at the same time—whoa! He is the only One who can understand us, forgive us when we disobey God and help us to be close with God forever.

Say: Let's close in prayer as we wrap up our Bible story time together. Reach your hands up really high.

Reach hands up high.

Say: Now clap them together like this.

Clap hands together.

Say: Let's pray.

Pray: God, thank You for loving me. There weren't any perfect people in Jesus' family, and I'm not perfect either. But I have hope because Jesus came! Amen.



BIG QUESTION

Say: Now it's time to answer our Big Question. Can you all help me do a drumroll?
1, 2, 3... drumroll!

Show the Big Question and Answer Teaching Image.

Say: Why was Jesus born? To save us!

Say: That's right! The Bible teaches that our hope comes from Jesus. He is the One who loves us and forgives all our sin.



VERSE VIDEO

*Play Memory Verse
Motion Video after
the verse is read.*

MEMORY VERSE MOTIONS:

Help kids recite and retain the memory verse by teaching it with motions. Before you teach the verse, be sure to explain what it means.

- Unto you (point out)
- is born (rock a baby)
- this day a (point downwards)
- Savior. (jump up)
- Luke 2:11 (open hands like a book)



MONTHLY Memory Verse

*Unto you is born this
day a Savior.*

(LUKE 2:11)



REVIEW:

Say: It's been so great being with you today, friends! Before we end our teaching time, let's review what we have learned. Let's all point up really high and say, "Jesus is hope."

Have the kids point up and say, "Jesus is hope."

Say: Now let's reach our hands out to the side and say, "We can have hope in Jesus."

Have the kids reach out and say, "We can have hope in Jesus."

Say: Now let's point to ourselves and say, "I can have hope in Jesus."

Have the kids point to themselves and say, "I can have hope in Jesus."



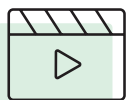
Jesus is hope.



We can have hope in Jesus.



I can have hope in Jesus.



**Consider showing the Bible Review Video as kids eat snack, are waiting for pick-up, or another time that fits your church's schedule.*



MEMORY VERSE MOVEMENT

SUPPLIES:

Music player, Memory Verse Song, scarves (1 per kid)

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP: Encourage creative movement. Use extra supplies such as musical instruments or bubbles.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For active learners who get too excited and carried away, utilize breathing to help calm down and talk calmly with them, repeating after you (e.g., I have a calm body, etc.).

ACTIVITY INTRO:

The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned that Jesus is the Savior God promised to send.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Let's practice our memory verse!
2. **Say:** Our memory verse comes from the Bible. It says, *Unto you is born this day a Savior (Luke 2:11).*
3. *Pass out a scarf to each kid.*
4. **Say:** Let's dance around the space while we wave and wiggle our scarves as we sing our Memory Verse Song together!
5. *Start the Memory Verse Song and encourage kids to move around, twirl, wiggle and wave their scarves while singing the song.*
6. **Ask:** Who can say the verse while waving their scarf?
7. *Repeat several times, encouraging kids to sing, move and wave scarves.*



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

You did an amazing job dancing, singing and waving scarves! Our memory verse reminds us that God kept His promise by sending Jesus to be our Savior. We can celebrate and remember this truth every day!



HOPE CLAP

SUPPLIES:

None

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP: Keep the rhythm simple and fun. Practice a few simple clap rhythms before starting.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Some kids may be sensitive to sounds. Allow for headphones, covering their ears or moving away from the group.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned that Jesus is the Savior God promised to send and that He brings hope to everyone.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Gather kids to sit criss-cross applesauce in a circle.*
2. **Say:** Let's use our hands and knees to make clapping beats while saying a very important truth: "Jesus brings hope!"
3. *Demonstrate a simple clap rhythm on your hands and knees while saying, "Jesus brings hope!"*
4. **Say:** Now we will try it together. I'll clap a beat, and you echo it back while saying, "Jesus brings hope!" Ready?
5. *Start with a simple beat. Have kids echo the rhythm and phrase.*
6. **Say:** Great! Let's try different rhythms.
7. *Lead simple rhythms that are fast, slow or even soft and loud. Rhythms can include clapping, patting knees or tapping on the floor.*
8. *Repeat several times with different rhythms, keeping it lively and engaging.*
9. **Ask:** Is it good news that Jesus brings hope?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

You all did an amazing job clapping and saying, "Jesus brings hope!" Just like we learned today, Jesus brings hope and gives us hope every day. We can remember this truth and share it with everyone around us!



NAME BLESSING STRIP

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies, cardstock, scissors (prep), stickers (4 per kid)

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Cut the cardstock into 4-inch wide strips (1 per kid). Write each kid's name on the paper strip.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Today, we will make a special Name Blessing Strip! Each of you will have a strip with your name on it, and we will say a blessing over you as you decorate it.
2. *Give each kid a strip with their name written on it.*
3. **Say:** Let's decorate our strips by coloring them and add stickers to make them special. As you decorate, remember that we can have hope in Jesus.
4. *Say a short blessing over each kid as they decorate, for example: "[Kid's name], may you always know Jesus loves you and that you can have hope in Jesus."*
5. **Say:** Each name in Jesus' family was important and part of God's plan. Your name is important and God has a plan for you too! You can have hope in Jesus!
6. *Set aside each kid's strip for parent pickup.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Whose family did you learn about?
- Who was promised to come?
- Was everyone in Jesus' family perfect?
- Who can we hope in?



PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear Jesus, thank You for coming to be our Savior. Thank You for loving us. Help us to hope in You. Amen.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.



HOPE IN JESUS

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Let's work together to come up with times that we can have hope in Jesus!
2. **Ask:** When can you have hope in Jesus?
3. *Lead kids with different situations in which they can have hope in Jesus. Give ideas as needed.*
4. **Situation Ideas:**
 - Sad because a parent is away for work
 - Mad because of a sibling
 - Really wants a pet
 - Missing a grandparent
 - People are arguing
 - Don't get to play with the toy you want
 - Want to make a friend
 - Scared to try something new
5. **Say:** No matter what happens, we can always have hope in Jesus. Jesus loves you and cares about you. Jesus is always there for you!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Whose family did you learn about?
- Who was promised to come?
- Was everyone in Jesus' family perfect?
- Who can we hope in?



PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear Jesus, thank You for coming to be our Savior. Thank You for loving us. Help us to hope in You. Amen.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.

CENTERS:

Set up 3-4 centers around the room for kids to explore and learn as they play. While kids explore the centers, leaders can work with individuals or small groups to make the craft. Set up each center in a separate part of the room, making sure all kids are visible at all times. Show the whole group what is in each center and give simple instructions of what kids should do in each center.

- **Dramatic Play:** Write “Hope” onto a large piece of butcher paper. Provide coloring supplies, stamps and washable ink pads for kids to use to decorate it. Share how Jesus brings hope.
- **Puzzles:** Set up a puzzle for kids to work together on. Share how everyone is important to God and hope in Jesus.
- **Reading Center:** Provide books about different kinds of families for kids to look through.

BONUS SCRIPT:

Preschoolers learn best through repetition. Use the script below to review the story at any opportunity. You could review the story while kids play in centers, while they work on their craft, during snack time, or while waiting for parents.

Say: The Bible tells us about Jesus’ family to show He came from Abraham and King David, just like God promised. Jesus’ family wasn’t perfect—just like our families, they made mistakes and had hard times. Jesus was born into a real family, like ours, but He is also God’s Son. Jesus is fully God and fully human! He came to love us, take care of us, and be our Savior.



BIG QUESTION

Why was Jesus born?
To save us!