



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 (10 MINUTES)

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

CUP STACK

SUPPLIES: 20 cups

2

BIBLE TEACHING

Large Group (15 MINUTES)

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

SUPPLIES: Bible, Bible story cards

3

BELIEVE

Small Group (10 MINUTES)

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

HOPE PRAISE

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

4

BECOME

Small Group (10 MINUTES)

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

MY FAMILY LINE

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, string, scissors (prep), clothespins (3-5 per kid), glue dots (1 per clothespin), yarn (black, red, yellow, brown)



CUP STACK

SUPPLIES:

20 cups

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP: Be sensitive to kids being raised by grandparents or guardians. Some kids' view of family is not positive. If this is the case with a kid in your group, lead them to share about someone whom they love or who cares for them, such as a teacher, church leader or sibling.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome everyone! My name is _____. *Greet each kid by name as you welcome them to your group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Gather kids together.*
2. **Say:** Let's work together to build a tall tower with these cups! As we build the tower, we will name someone from our family.
3. *Hand out the cups and help kids work together to build a tower. Lead kids to name different family members.*
4. *Once the tower is built, lead kids to knock it over and start again.*
5. **Ask:** What is something you love about your family?

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

Today we will learn about how Jesus had an earthly family. I loved hearing about your families. Let's get ready to learn more about Jesus' family together!

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

Use the Bible story cards to teach the Bible story or read the script to the kids.



Say: Today's true story from the Bible comes from the book of Matthew. Let's open up the Bible to Matthew chapter 1. *Have a kid help you open the Bible and then hold it up for everyone else to see.*

Say: Jesus had a mom and dad! He also had grandparents and great grandparents and great-great grandparents! There's a list of Jesus' family in the Bible! Would someone like to tell us about your family?

Say: The list is important. Long, long ago God said His Son would come to Earth and people like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, and David would be in His family. Guess what? All those names and more are in the list! God's words came true! Everyone give me a thumbs up and say, "true!"

Say: Guess what—the people in Jesus' family weren't perfect. Some of them did wrong things! Say, "Oh no!" People like King David made bad choices that hurt others. Sometimes you and I do wrong things too. The people in Jesus' family were just like us!

Say: There are boys and girls in the list of Jesus' family. There are people from different places on the list. Everyone is important to God! Turn to your friend and whisper, "You're important."



POINT TO JESUS

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

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Genealogy: list of one's family members

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

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WRAP-UP: **BIG QUESTION**

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 Teaching Image and Answer.

Say: Why was Jesus born? To save us!



Jesus is hope.



We can have
hope in Jesus.



I can have
hope in Jesus.

**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)



HOPE PRAISE

SUPPLIES:

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

PREP:

None

ACTIVITY INTRO:

The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today, we learned Jesus brings hope. We can celebrate this truth about who Jesus is and know that Jesus is our Savior.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Pass out a scarf to each kid.*
2. **Say:** Our memory verse says, *Unto you is born this day a Savior (Luke 2:11).*
3. **Say:** Let's practice our new memory verse by dancing, wiggling and singing to our Memory Verse Song!
4. *Play the Memory Verse Song and lead kids through various movements.*
5. **Movements:**
 - Wiggle
 - Wave scarf up high
 - Wave scarf down low
 - Wave scarf fast and then slow
 - Stomp feet
 - Spin around
 - Jump
 - Clap hands
6. **Ask:** What can we praise Jesus for?

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

We can praise Jesus for how He brings us hope! We can have hope and joy knowing that Jesus made a way for us to live with God forever when we choose to believe in Him.



MY FAMILY LINE

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies, string, scissors (prep), clothespins (3–5 per kid), glue dots (1 per clothespin), yarn (black, red, yellow, brown)

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Cut the string into 10-inch pieces (1 per kid). Cut the yarn into 2–3-inch pieces to represent hair (several per kid).

LEADER TIP: Be conscious that some kids in your group may not have a typical family. Encourage them to include people they love or help take care of them on their clothespin line.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Today we learned about Jesus' earthly family. We will make our own family line to help us remember our Bible story and how Jesus gives us hope.
2. *Pass out a clothespin for kids to decorate and draw themselves. Then pass out clothespins for their parents or guardians and siblings, or if they don't have siblings, for any pets or extended family.*
3. *Lead kids to color and decorate their clothespins to represent each family member.*
4. *Help kids place a glue dot and then stick the yarn to the glue dot to make hair.*
5. *Then clip the clothespins onto their loose string.*
6. **Say:** Jesus gives us hope. When we see our family this week, we can remember Jesus' earthly family. No one's family is perfect. But Jesus is perfect. We can trust in Jesus, hope in Jesus and follow Jesus too!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Was Jesus' family perfect?
- Did God keep His promise?
- What does Jesus bring us?
- Who can you tell about Jesus this week?



PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus. As we grow up, help us to have hope in Jesus. 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.

- **Modeling Dough:** Provide modeling dough and people cookie cutters for kids to create people out of. As they work, share about how Jesus had an earthly family.
- **Letter Search:** Write the letters "H-O-P-E" onto cardstock paper. Cut up smaller pieces of paper and mix in with blank pieces of paper. Lead kids to find the papers with letters written on them, then help them to spell out "hope." Share that Jesus brings us hope.
- **Reading Center:** Provide picture Bibles for kids to flip through and find pictures of Jesus and Jesus' family members.

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 New Testament starts with the family line of Joseph's family. This shows that God kept His promise and Jesus came from the family line of Abraham and David. Jesus had an earthly family. They were not perfect and often messed up. Yet the Son of God, Jesus, was born to an earthly family. Jesus is fully man and fully God. Jesus was born to rescue us. Jesus is our Savior.



BIG QUESTION

Why was Jesus born?
To save us!