

## Matthew 1

PRAY: Father, teach me through the miracles you performed in Matthew 1, when you brought forth Jesus my Savior to earth.

Journal your prayer here:

PREVIEW: In Matthew 1, Jesus is presented as the royal Heir to the throne of David—the Messiah, Immanuel: God with us.

Matthew 1 Outline:

Genealogy of Christ – Read Matthew 1:1-17

Birth of Christ - Read Matthew 1:18-25

PREPARE: Get ready to learn about Jesus, our Savior and Messiah, as He is presented in Matthew chapter 1.

Introduction to Matthew

Matthew's gospel was written in Greek; his readers were Greek-speaking, and probably Jewish. His primary purpose in writing was to prove that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah). He refers to more Old Testament sources than the writers of the other gospels to prove that Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah.

1. Matthew's name means "gift of the Lord." Who was Matthew? What was his job, and what other name was he known by? (See Matthew 9:9, Mark 2:14, and Luke 5:27-28.)

Genealogy of Christ – Read Matthew 1:1-17

2. The book of Matthew begins with a genealogy of Jesus. Matthew states that Jesus is the Heir to the throne of Israel both racially, by being Abraham's son, and royally, by being King David's son. How does the apostle Paul refer to Jesus in Romans 1:3 and Galatians 3:16?

3. When God established the Davidic covenant (2 Samuel 7:1-17), He promised David a son whose kingdom would be established forever (2 Samuel 7:13). The phrase in Matthew 1:1, "the Son of David," is a title of the Messiah—and proof of His royal right to the throne. This would have been important evidence to Matthew's Jewish readers (see also Luke 1:32-33, John 7:42, Acts 2:30, Romans 1:3). In Revelation 5:5 and 22:16, what term, regarding King David, did Jesus use to refer to Himself?

Women were not typically included in genealogical lists. Matthew included four Old Testament women in the genealogy of Jesus. Who were they?

PRODUCE: Why was it so important for Matthew to list the genealogy of Jesus as the Son of David and the Son of Abraham?

4. Women were not typically included in genealogical lists. Matthew included four Old Testament women in the genealogy of Jesus. Who were they?

PROCEED: Share with the group why you think Matthew included four women in the genealogy of Jesus.

5. The word *begot* means "to procreate as the father; to sire." It is used throughout the genealogical line—until Joseph. Joseph is referred to as "the husband of Mary" (v.16). Why?

Birth of Christ - Read Matthew 1:18-25

6. Mary was betrothed to Joseph (v. 18). The word *betrothed* means "promised to be married." The only way out of a betrothal was divorce (Deuteronomy 24:1). A betrothed woman is called a wife. Matthew uses the words *husband* and *wife* when referring to Joseph and Mary even before they were married. When was Mary found with child (v. 18)?

(To read a detailed account of Mary's experience, read Luke 1:26-56.)

7. Joseph is described as an upright, righteous, or "just" man (v. 19), not wanting to make a public example of Mary because she was pregnant and they were not yet married. What did the phrase "public example" refer to? (See Deuteronomy 22:23-24, 24:1; John 8:4-5.)

PRACTICE: How was Joseph described in Matthew 1 and why is it important for us to have the same character trait?

8. Although Joseph is referred to as Mary's husband, they were not yet married, and thus their marriage wasn't consummated. How was Mary with child (v. 18, 20)? (See also Luke 1:35, 2:4-5.)

9. An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream (v. 20). What did the angel tell him not to be afraid of? Why would he have been afraid of this?

PROCLAIM: Share with the group what was going on in Joseph's mind when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream.

10. The angel also promised Joseph that Mary would have a Son. What was the name Joseph was to call Him and why (v. 21)? What does this name mean?

11. Isaiah 7:14 is quoted as being fulfilled through Mary and Joseph (v. 23). Although the verse says they "shall call His name Immanuel," Jesus is never called Immanuel in Scripture. Jesus was His human name, Christ was His official title, and Immanuel was a name that described His earthly ministry. What does the name Immanuel mean (v. 23)?

PROTECT: Meditate upon the meaning of the name given to Jesus in Matthew 1:23. How is it true in your life?

PROMOTE: Share with the group what names or titles are given to Jesus in Matthew 1. What do they mean to you personally?

12. Some falsely teach that Mary was a virgin all her life. How does verse 25 clearly refute that teaching? (See also Mark 6:3.)

PROCESS: What did you learn about Jesus as the Son of David and the Son of Abraham, the Seed, Root, and Offspring of David, the Savior, and Immanuel?

PRAY: Father, thank You for sending Jesus Christ, born of a virgin, to be my Savior and Lord!

Journal your prayer here:

PROPOUND: What is the significance of the titles "Son of David" and "Son of Abraham" in Matthew 1:1?

PROPOUND: What was the profession of the first two women mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1?

PROPOUND: What is pronounced upon Jeconiah in Jeremiah 22:28-30? What miracle in Matthew 1 was required because of this?

PROPOUND: In Matthew 1:16, by what title was Jesus to be called? What is the meaning of that title?

PROPOUND: Joseph and Mary weren't married when she was found with child. Why were they referred to as husband and wife?

PROPOUND: What was Joseph doing when the angel appeared to him?

PROPOUND: What name is Joseph instructed to give to Mary's firstborn Son? What does the name mean?