

LIFE GROUPS DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE ONE CALLED CHRIST Matthew 1:1–17

November 29, 2020

CONNECT

1. COVID is on the rise, restrictions have been enhanced, isolation for many remains and winter is setting in. These are tough days. It could be easy to think God has forgotten us. In what ways are you tempted to believe that and how has God shown you that He is still working in these challenging days?

CELEBRATE

2. The span of time from the end of the Old Testament era until the birth of Jesus was about 400 years. It might seem God was silent, as if He had forgotten His people. But in what way does the genealogy—from Abraham to Jesus—of Matthew 1:1–17 foil that thinking? What might it tell us about God and His faithfulness? What does that mean for you today?
3. Uriah's wife (Matthew 1:6) instantly brings to mind David's sexual assault (see 2 Samuel 11). Manasseh brings to mind over-the-top idolatry (see 2 Chronicles 33:9). Rahab and Tamar were both prostitutes. Ruth was a widow. All three of these women were Gentiles. Mary was a pregnant teenager. Indeed, Jesus' pedigree is filled with those for whom shame, wounds, wickedness and failure are the most apt descriptions. Read 1 Timothy 1:12–17. How does Jesus' own troubled lineage, coupled with His saving work, encourage you today?
4. Luke 2:8–11 finds an angel proclaiming to shepherds that in the city of David (Bethlehem) a Savior had been born to them, "who is Christ the Lord." What is the literary device used in Matthew 1:1–17 and what fulfilled promise does it forcefully highlight? Read 2 Samuel 7:12–16 and Isaiah 9:1–7 for further insight.

CONTRIBUTE

5. In the midst of this challenging season, how can you lean into the hope and promise of Jesus, the greater son of David, this Christmas? Be as specific as you can.
6. How might you verbalize to those around you the truth that though He seems silent, God is very much at work and that the greatest proof of God's work is the anticipation, arrival, death and resurrection of Jesus?