

## Home Groups - Discussion Questions

Wed 19 / Thurs 20 Dec

*The Credentials of the Promised Messiah (Matthew 1:1-17)*

Groups: - Wednesday at Robert & Emma's (19 Manse Park, N'ards), 7.30pm

Wednesday at Trevor & Mandy's (16 Jude's Crescent, N'ards), 8pm

Thursday at James & Gwen's (21 L'Derry Ave, Comber), 7.30pm

1. We are very familiar with the fact that there are four Gospel accounts. But what would you say if someone was to ask you "Why are there four, and not just one?" What are the benefits of having 4 gospels? Refer to Deut. 19:15.
2. What are the benefits in returning regularly to the Gospels in a pulpit ministry?
3. It's largely agreed that Matthew's primary readers were Jews, people familiar with the Old Testament. He begins his Gospel account with the words *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ*. What are the meanings of the names Jesus and Christ?
4. Why were Jews interested in genealogies? Refer to Ezra 2:62 and Romans 11:1. Why does Matthew start off with a genealogy?
5. How does this genealogy confirm that Jesus wasn't merely a fictional, made-up character?
6. What was important about being *the son of David* and *the son of Abraham*? Refer to 2 Samuel 7:12-13, Psalm 89:34-37 and Genesis 12:3?
7. What is being taught here about God's promises? Why should unbelievers be afraid? Why should believers be comforted?
8. This isn't a perfect list of perfect people. It even includes, very surprisingly in those days, women: Tamar (Genesis 38 – involved in prostitution & incest), Rahab (Joshua 2 – a professional Canaanite prostitute), Ruth (not a prostitute but a outcast Moabite Gentile), Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11 - an adulteress), & Mary, the virgin mother of Jesus. What lessons are being taught here?
9. How does this unlikely list of unlikely people give us some of the greatest words on the grace of God in all the Bible?

### Prayer Time

- Give thanks for the lessons learned from this message
- Give thanks for the year that has almost finished
- Pray for those for who this time of year is a difficult time
- Pray for the persecuted church

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