

THE STAR:
Week 3 Journey to the Nativity
12/14/25

DAY 1: THE MESSY FAMILY TREE

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:1-6

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham: Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife.

Reflection:

We all have a family tree. Some of us come from families that look picture-perfect on the outside. Others come from families with visible cracks and brokenness. But here's the truth: every family tree has some broken branches.

When you read Jesus' family tree, you might expect to see a list of saints and heroes. Instead, you find prostitutes, liars, murderers, adulterers, and foreigners. You find people who made terrible choices and people who lived in terrible circumstances.

And Matthew doesn't hide it. He puts it right there in the genealogy.

Rahab the prostitute? Included.

Ruth the foreigner from a despised nation? Included.

David the adulterer and murderer? Included.

"Uriah's wife" (Bathsheba, the victim of David's sin)? Included.

This isn't a mistake. This is intentional.

God is showing us something profound: His plan doesn't depend on perfect people. It never has. It never will.

He uses broken people to accomplish His perfect purposes.

If God waited for perfect people to carry out His plan, nothing would ever get done. The Messiah would never have come. Salvation would never have arrived.

But God doesn't need your perfection. He needs your willingness.

So whatever you're carrying today—whatever shame, whatever regret, whatever brokenness—know this: you're not disqualified from God's plan. You're exactly the kind of person He loves to use.

Reflection Questions:

1. What part of your story do you think disqualifies you from being used by God?
2. How does knowing that Jesus' family tree includes broken people change how you see yourself?
3. What would it look like for you to offer your brokenness to God instead of hiding it?

DAY 2: RAHAB - FROM OUTCAST TO ANCESTOR

Scripture Reading: Joshua 2:1-11; Matthew 1:5

So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there. (Joshua 2:1)

In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? (James 2:25)

Reflection:

Rahab's story starts in the worst possible place. She's a prostitute in Jericho, a city marked for destruction. She's an enemy of God's people, living in a culture that worships false gods, making a living in a way that would make her an outcast in Israelite society.

If anyone had reason to believe they were too far gone for God, it was Rahab.

But when the Israelite spies came to Jericho, Rahab made a choice that changed everything. She chose to trust the God of Israel. She hid the spies, protected them, and declared her faith: "The LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below."

One act of faith. One choice to trust God.

And everything changed.

Rahab went from prostitute to righteous. From enemy to friend of God. From condemned to saved. She married an Israelite man named Salmon. She had a son named Boaz. And she became the great-great-grandmother of King David—and an ancestor of Jesus.

Her past didn't disqualify her. Her faith redeemed her.

Here's what's amazing: God didn't just save Rahab from destruction. He brought her into the very lineage of the Messiah. He made her part of the greatest story ever told.

Your past doesn't define your future. God's grace does.

Whatever you've done, wherever you've been, however far you think you've strayed—you're not too far gone for God. One act of faith can change everything.

Reflection Questions:

1. Is there an area of your life where you feel "too far gone" for God to redeem?
2. What would it look like for you to make a faith choice today, even if your circumstances haven't changed?
3. How does Rahab's inclusion in Jesus' family tree give you hope?

DAY 3: RUTH - FROM OUTSIDER TO INSIDER

Scripture Reading: Ruth 1:16-17; Matthew 1:5

But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me."

Reflection:

Ruth had every reason to walk away.

She was a Moabite—from a nation that descended from an incestuous relationship and was despised by Israel. She was a widow with no children, which meant she had

no security and no future. Her mother-in-law Naomi was also a widow, bitter and broken, heading back to Israel with nothing.

The smart choice would have been to go back to her own people, find a new husband, start over.

But Ruth didn't choose the smart choice. She chose the faith choice.

"Your people will be my people and your God my God."

Ruth chose loyalty over security. She chose faith over comfort. She chose to trust the God of Israel even though He hadn't given her any guarantees.

And God rewarded her faith beyond anything she could have imagined.

She found favor with a man named Boaz, who became her kinsman-redeemer. He married her, provided for her, and gave her a son named Obed. That son became the grandfather of King David—and Ruth became an ancestor of Jesus.

From outsider to insider. From widow with no hope to great-grandmother of the King.

That's what God does. He takes people who feel like they don't belong and welcomes them into His family. He takes people who have no hope and gives them a future they never dreamed possible.

If you've ever felt like an outsider, Ruth's story is for you. God doesn't just tolerate you. He welcomes you. He redeems you. He makes you part of His family.

Reflection Questions:

1. Have you ever felt like an outsider? In what areas of life do you still feel that way?
2. What would it look like for you to choose faith over comfort in your current circumstances?
3. How does Ruth's story encourage you about God's ability to redeem your situation?

DAY 4: DAVID - FAILING FORWARD

Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 11:1-5; Psalm 51:1-12

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight... Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Reflection:

David is remembered as a man after God's own heart. A shepherd boy who killed a giant. A king who united Israel. A worship leader who wrote many of the Psalms.

But David was also an adulterer and a murderer.

He saw Bathsheba bathing, took her to his bed even though she was married, got her pregnant, and then arranged for her husband Uriah to be killed in battle to cover it up.

This wasn't a mistake. This was calculated sin.

And there were consequences. God told David he wouldn't be allowed to build the temple. The child born from that relationship died. David's family was torn apart by violence and betrayal in the years that followed.

Sin always has consequences.

But here's what's remarkable: despite his sin, David remained in the lineage of Jesus. Despite his failure, he was still called a man after God's own heart.

Why?

Because he repented. Truly, deeply, completely.

Psalm 51 is David's prayer of repentance, and it's one of the most honest prayers in all of Scripture. David doesn't make excuses. He doesn't minimize his sin. He doesn't blame Bathsheba or circumstances or stress.

He says, *"I have sinned. Against You, and You only. Create in me a pure heart."*

God doesn't excuse David's sin. But He does redeem David.

Your failures don't define you. Your response to them does.

If you've blown it—if you've sinned in ways that make you feel disqualified from God's purposes—David's story is for you. Repentance opens the door to redemption. A broken and contrite heart, God will not despise.

Reflection Questions:

1. Is there sin in your life that you've been minimizing or making excuses for?
2. What would true repentance look like for you today?
3. How does David's story give you hope that God can still use you despite your failures?

DAY 5: UNSHAKABLE PROMISES

Scripture Reading: Genesis 22:15-18; Galatians 3:26-29

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."
(Genesis 22:15-18)

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Galatians 3:26-29)

Reflection:

Thousands of years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem, God made a promise to Abraham: *"Through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed."*

And then God kept that promise. Through slavery in Egypt. Through judges and kings. Through exile and return. Through 42 generations of ups and downs, faith and failure, obedience and rebellion.

The genealogy of Jesus is proof that God's promises are unshakable.

He worked through Rahab the prostitute, Ruth the foreigner, David the adulterer, Solomon the idolater. He worked through faithful people and faithless people, through triumph and tragedy, through good choices and terrible ones.

Nothing—and no one—could stop God's plan.

And here's the incredible part: if you belong to Christ, you're part of this story now. You're an heir of the promise. You're a child of Abraham. You're part of the family tree.

God's promise wasn't just for people back then. It's for you.

The same God who kept His promise through 42 generations of mess will keep His promises to you. The same grace that covered Rahab covers you. The same redemption that rescued Ruth rescues you. The same faithfulness that sustained David sustains you.

God is faithful. His promises endure. And He's working out His plan in your life, just as He did through the generations leading to Jesus.

You may not see it yet. The road may be hard. The circumstances may be messy. But God is faithful.

And one day, you'll look back and see that He was working all along.

Reflection Questions:

1. What promises of God do you need to hold onto right now?
2. How does the genealogy of Jesus strengthen your confidence in God's faithfulness?
3. In what area of your life do you need to trust that God is working, even when you can't see it?