

LESSON 1

FAMILY TREE

MATTHEW 1:1–17



1 Briefly describe a time when you met someone you considered very important.

2 How did this meeting affect you positively or negatively?



Read the introductory material to Matthew, Matthew 1:1–17, and the following notes:

☐ 1:1 ☐ 1:1–17 ☐ 1:16

3 What is the main purpose of the Gospel of Matthew?

4 How far is it from Jerusalem to Caesarea Philippi? What town or city is about that far from where you live? (Use the map “Key Places in Matthew” in the introductory material.)

5 There are four women besides Mary mentioned in Jesus’ genealogy. Why might they have been included in a list of fathers?

6 Why was it important for Matthew to include a list of Jesus’ ancestors in his Gospel?

The purpose of the Gospels is to give us a clear picture of Jesus so we can get to know him better. They tell us who he is, what he came to do, and what he wants us to do. Matthew’s unique snapshot gives us a picture of Jesus the King. By the time you reach the end of the Gospel of Matthew, your knowledge of Jesus should be deeper, your picture of him should be clearer, and your understanding of what he wants you to be and do should be more mature. In the end, if you are willing, you will know him better, too.

7 Roughly how many times have you read the Gospel of Matthew all the way through? ☐ Never ☐ Once ☐ A couple of times ☐ Quite a few times ☐ Many times

8 Which of the five Megathemes (from the introductory material) are you most interested in understanding better?



9 Briefly describe how you would like your understanding of Jesus to change.

10 In what specific ways do you think you would be different if you knew Jesus better than you do right now?

11 What will you do this week to get to know Jesus better?



12 Throughout the coming week, pray that God will enable you to benefit from your study of Matthew by helping you to understand yourself and Jesus better.

MORE
for studying
other themes
in this section

A Which of the Old Testament people in Jesus' family tree do you recognize? What do you know about them? Which people would you like to learn more about?

B Use the timeline and the Blueprint outline in the introduction to figure out the length of time covered in each of the main sections of Matthew. How did Jesus spend most of his time during his ministry? What does his example say about our priorities? How might you adjust your priorities?

C Several titles and names for Jesus are used in the introductory material. Which one means the most to you? Why?

D What was the world's political situation at the time of Jesus' birth? What longings did this create in God's people? How did God address those longings? What longings or desires does our world's present situation create in you? Which of God's provisions meets your desires most?