

# Matthew's Messiah The Mothers in Jesus' Genealogy


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## TALKING WALKING POINTS

### Leaders' Guide



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**Talk** together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11  
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

### Questions for Reflection and Discussion

- 1 Review the five women listed in Jesus' genealogy (see [2] in the **Sermon Summary**). What surprises you about each? (To read their backstories, see the **Digging Deeper** feature.)
- 2 Which one of these women do you **most** look forward to meeting in heaven—and **why**? What will you ask her about her background? ...about the turning points in her life?
- 3 Review the backstory of David and "**her who had been Uriah's wife**" (see 2 Samuel 11). David had at least six more wives—yet look how he is described in Acts 13:22! How do you explain that?
- 4 **Why** do you think God honored Bathseba by placing **her** in the lineage of the Messiah?
- 5 How does the messiness of Messiah's lineage contribute to it's credibility? ...to God's glory?
- 6 **Creating "God Space"** "God Space" is where cynics, skeptics, and spiritually curious people can safely raise their questions, reservations, and doubts because we have listened well and demonstrated love in practical, authentic ways.
  - Think of those you'll be seeing throughout the holidays. Where is each of them spiritually?
  - How do you think each would respond to the statement that "*God's promises have come true.*"?
  - Practice explaining the significance of the five women listed in Matthew's genealogy in a way that they'd understand (with enough detail to make the point, but not so much that their eyes glaze over!)
  - What question could you ask them that might help get this conversation going in a natural way?

### Application-Challenge

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  - God fulfills his promises in his own time, his own way. Make sure you're trusting God for things he truly has promised—and then don't doubt him.
  - Think of the implications of grace: if you feel unlovable or insignificant, remember Rahab and Ruth. If you feel particularly special—remember David's failure!
  - If you're not sure you believe Jesus' story, read one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) over the holiday season. Make a list of questions you have—and then let's have lunch!



- 1 If your group has time, the backstories to these women (found in the ***Digging Deeper*** feature) really are startling! (Tamar's story is bizaar; Bathsheba's is shocking; Ruth's is heart-warming—if you only have time for three, these are hum-dingers!) You won't be able to explain some things in Tamar's story, but don't worry. Your goal is just to explore some of the figures in Jesus' surprising family tree!
- 2 These are real people, with real lived-experience. Help group members put themselves in these women's situations. What questions come up? How might key events have set the course of their lives? What if they'd responded differently to life events? What can we learn from these women?
- 3 Although many people are familiar with the story of David and Bathsheba, it really is worth taking time to review 2 Samuel 11. And you'll definitely need to puzzle over Acts 13:22! How in the world could David be described as "a man after God's own heart"? Pastor Doug puts it this way: David was as good a repentor as he was a sinner! (All of us are good at sin; few of us are good at repenting.) Remember—Acts 13:22 is **God's** evaluation of David. This should give us hope—and stimulate us to become "good repentors". (FYI: Psalm 51 is David's account of his repentance.)
- 4 This is a question to puzzle over. Was this just a kindness toward a woman who was sorely mistreated? We don't know a lot about David's other wives, but Abigail definitely was a virtuous woman (Pastor Lanier highlighted her last week). I don't know the answer to this question, but it certainly engages group members in the Christmas story.
- 5 This question is very significant. The first part (about how it enhances credibility) will be particularly helpful as we engage with non-believers over the Christmas season (see "God Space" in number 6). The second part (about how it magnifies God's glory) will be particularly significant for believers as we worship God during the Christmas season.
- 6 The Christmas season gives us unparalleled opportunity to give witness for Christ (it's **his** birthday, and **everyone** celebrates it, and we come in contact with more non-believers than we often do). Take plenty of time on these questions. Don't be embarrassed to actually to role-play your answers. Role-play is one of the best methods for training in a new skill. Training in ministry skill is a big part of making disciples—don't miss this opportunity.
- 7 Although all of these points of application are important, don't overlook this final one. Actually getting into God's Word is powerful. Plus—the offer of lunch with Pastor Doug is genuine!