



THE SET-UP

11.30.2014

MATTHEW 1:1-17

## STUDY QUESTIONS

USE THESE QUESTIONS IN YOUR COMMUNITY GROUP TIME TO DIG DEEPER AND DISCOVER HOW YOU CAN APPLY TODAY'S MESSAGE TO EVERYDAY LIFE.



### INTRODUCTION

For many of us, Jesus is a doctrine to believe and the celebration of his birth is more a symbol than anything. Yet Jesus himself is the crux of a fascinating, imaginative, inspiring and transformational story that God has been writing from the beginning. At Christmas we pause to remember the actual account of an actual Messiah that came to invite us into God's redemptive eternal story. This Christmas season, let's take time to remember the story, reflect on what it means, and rediscover our place in it.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read through Matthew 1:1-17. Remember all the pieces we highlighted on Sunday: the good, the bad, the unexpected, the hopeful. As you look through all the human lives God wove into his story of redemption, which one gives you the most hope that God can use you?
2. On Sunday, we heard: "God is always the hero of his story." What does/could it look like for God to be the "hero" or "main character" of your story?
3. As we look at God's story, we notice several things are present:
  - a. It's full of unexpected turns and unexpected people.
  - b. God waste's nothing. He even uses our mistakes, if we let him.
  - c. God uses messed up people.
  - d. God sees greatness in obscure people.
  - e. Sometimes God's work is instantaneous, sometimes it takes centuries: God does things in his own time.

How do these observations play into your life? What gives you hope? What challenges you?

4. Over the next few weeks, we'll be telling the Christmas story. Right now, think through this old, familiar narrative. With which characters do you most identify? Why? What would it look like for you to engage and live the Christmas story this year? What would it take for you to do that?

### MOVING FORWARD

Choose one of the characters from Jesus' lineage (Matthew 1:1-17), the one with whom you most identify. Read the account of their story in the scriptures. Let God invite you to be a part of his story and ask him how you can live fully in this.