

GIFTED

What Christmas Means for You.



LESSON 1 // MAKING THE LIST

Big Idea: The wonderful story of Jesus' coming that we celebrate at Christmas has many lessons for us. One of these lessons can be gleaned as we consider the genealogy of Jesus in the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel.

This carefully structured record of names of people in Jesus' lineage speaks to us about God's careful preparation for the arrival of His Son—His gift to the world. From this we see that the Lord has a plan for the world and He accomplishes it through people. He brings ordinary people into His story. This gives us hope that there's a place for each of us in God's story as well.

Galatians 4:4-5 (TLB) *But when the right time came, the time God decided on, he sent his Son, born of a woman, born as a Jew, to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law so that he could adopt us as his very own sons.*

Start Talking:

What is something interesting in your genealogy that people might be surprised at? (Maybe something as simple as where your ancestors came from.)

Start Thinking:

Read Matthew 1:1-12. In what ways is it encouraging to you that God included ordinary people, including people who had sinned and failed in many ways, in the lineage of Jesus?

Read Galatians 4:4-5. What does it mean that God is "always on time" and what difference should this make in your walk with Him?

Read Philippians 2:13 and 3:13-14. How do these verses encourage you to persevere in your pursuit of God's purposes?

Read Revelation 12:10-11. What do these verses tell you about God's plan and ultimate purpose? How should this impact how you live every day?

Start Praying and Doing:

Pray that the Lord will grant you grace to overcome any failure or shortcoming to pursue His purpose for your life. Remember that God will enable you to "work out your salvation" as He continues to work in you (Philippians 2:13), no matter where you have been or what you have done.

Memorize Philippians 2:13 and look for opportunities to "work out" spiritually this week in everyday situations. This could be simply giving your time and attention in the name of Jesus to someone who needs encouragement. It could include serving at church with faith that God will use you to impact people. Find ways to proactively work out what God is working in you for His glory.