



## Introducing Jesus

**Ice Breaker:** Share a funny Christmas memory with your group. Is there a present that was so bad you just have to laugh about it? Did you have a Christmas that was one disaster after another? Is there a sweet memory that you cherish and remember every year?

### **May I introduce to you, Jesus Christ...**

Pastor Jason took a different approach to Christmas this week by modeling his message on Matthew 1. Instead of jumping ahead to the story that paints the picture of the Nativity (Matthew 1:18-25), he went back to the lineage of Jesus (Matthew 1:1-17). What we find in the lineage of Jesus are people that probably don't belong there given the religion and customs that formed the Jewish lifestyle and the holiness that God required. Yet, in the family line of Jesus, we are able to draw some really interesting insights about the grace Jesus came to give us.

#### 1. Jesus is the One who came to save you.

*See: Matthew 1:20-21*

What do you need Jesus to save you from?

#### 2. Jesus is the One who came for the morally outcast.

What circumstances can you look at in your own family tree that might indicate poor morals?

Are there people in your family tree that may have been thought of as morally outcast?

What is your personal view of the people in your family that have been outcast?

Ask God to give you some specifics to pray for your family of origin.

#### 3. Jesus is the One who came to bless the world through you.

*See: Matthew 1:1, Genesis 12:2b & 3b, Galatians 3:16*

If you have never intentionally set out to bless others, ask God what you have that might be a blessing. (*This can be as simple as a smile to someone who is not smiling or as big as giving money to someone in need.*)

What gifts has God given you that you know could be a blessing to others?

What is your favorite way to bless other people?

### **Practice:**

Ask God to show you how to bless someone this week. Open your heart a little more than usual and see if there are opportunities to introduce Jesus to someone near you.

Faith has in-person services for Christmas on Tuesday, December 22 at 6:30pm, Wednesday, December 23 at 6:30pm, and Thursday, Christmas Eve, at 3pm and 5pm. Please invite your friends and family and let's introduce people to Jesus, the Prince of Peace and our only Hope.

*Other Scriptures for Reference: John 14:27 (NLT), Isaiah 9:6-7 (NIV), Matthew 1:1-25 (NIV)*