

Family Matters

Name a relative you are proud of. Describe a relative you're not proud of.

Read Matthew 1:1-25.

1. Why are genealogies important?
 - A. It provides identity.
 - B. To know who is part of your bloodline.
 - C. They provide boring spots—a good excuse *not* to read the Bible.
 - D. It lays out a frame of reference for how people relate to each other.
 - E. To practice reading names you'd usually never attempt.
 - F. I don't think genealogies are important.
 - G. To make it clear who are Jews and who are Gentiles (in and out).
 - H. To expose the good and the bad in your family line.
 - I. Other.

2. Why does Abraham get singled out for "Jesus the Messiah"?
 - A. He is clearly the most important Jew—the father of the Jews.
 - B. It's more likely Americans will pronounce his name correctly.
 - C. God promised Abraham a son, and Jesus is God's promised son.
 - D. Abraham followed God to an unknown land; Jesus did the same.
 - E. The others in the genealogy did too many embarrassing things.
 - F. It's all based on the song "Father Abraham had many sons . . ."
 - G. Jesus is the ultimate Jew—a descendent of Abraham.
 - H. It's not just Abraham; David gets singled out as well.
 - I. Other.

3. Why does David get singled out for "Jesus the Messiah"?
 - A. He is clearly the most important king of God's people.
 - B. It's more likely Americans will pronounce his name correctly.
 - C. God promised David an eternal heir who would reign.
 - D. David was an example of rising from a humble beginning to be king.
 - E. The others in the genealogy did too many embarrassing things.
 - F. All Jews, from kings to commoners, wanted the Messiah to be King.
 - G. Jesus is the ultimate king (David).
 - H. Just like David, Jesus defeated all of the enemies of God's people.
 - I. Other.

4. Who would you have kept off the list in the Matthew 1 genealogy?
 - A. The names I can't pronounce.
 - B. The kings who were wicked (like Ahaz, Manasseh, and Amon).
 - C. No one—keep them all there.
 - D. People with a problematic past.
 - E. Those after the Babylonian captivity really don't matter.
 - F. Judah (see Genesis 38).
 - G. Jesus.
 - H. Other.

5. If you are a "child of God" how are you related to this genealogy?
 - A. I'm not related to any of them.
 - B. I'm only related to Jesus (my "brother").
 - C. It's spiritual, not literal or biological.
 - D. Because I belong to Jesus, I'm related to all of these people.
 - E. Galatians 3:26-29 indicates I'm related to even more such people.
 - F. I'm "related" to fellow believers at church.
 - G. I'm "related" to everyone who is a follower of God.
 - H. This seems like a bunch of talk, but it doesn't affect how I live.
 - I. Other.

6. What is the significance of three sets of 14 generations (vs. 17)?
 - A. The Jews were really into the symbolic meaning of numbers.
 - B. The total is 42, used in other parts of the Bible (Rev. 11:2; 13:5).
 - C. It's a coincidence that the genealogies came out this way.
 - D. The genealogies were actually altered some to make it 3 x 14.
 - E. The number 14 is the symbolic name of David, so Jesus = David.
 - F. The number 3 is the symbolic number for God, so Jesus = God.
 - G. It divides Jewish history based on three significant events.
 - H. This is not truly significant.
 - I. Other.

7. Which people in Christ's genealogy are admirable? Which are complicated?

8. Why did God place Jesus in this line of people? Why did God place you in your line of relatives?