**Large Group December 10**

**Bible Teaching: Genealogy of Jesus**

**Bible Passage: Matthew 1:1-17**

**Bible Teaching Summary**

Family histories were important in Bible times. The New Testament begins with the genealogy of Joseph’s family. The listing shows that Jesus is a descendant of Abraham and David, just like God had promised. Jesus’ family members were not perfect. They were human and had their challenges, just like our families. Jesus was the Son of God, born to a human family. He was fully human and fully God, which is what was necessary for Him to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

**brite\* Idea:** Jesus had an earthly family.

**Memory Verse: Isaiah 7:14b**

*(She) shall bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel (God with us).*

**Focus Verses: Philippians 2:6-8, Hebrews 2:17-18**

**He Question:** Was Jesus God or human?

Jesus is fully God and fully human. He is the Son of God, but came to Earth in human flesh.

**We Question:** How is Jesus like us?

Jesus is fully human. He had a human family. He came as a baby and grew up just like everyone else. We aren't perfect, but He is.

**Me Question:** What does God want me to know about Him and what does this mean for my life?

**Leader Tips: Emphasize Why it Matters**

When teaching kids truths about God, it is essential that kids understand why they matter. It is this understanding that will provide the motivation to act on the truth, to change and to grow because of it. Prior to your group gathering, set aside some time to prayerfully reflect on why the truth for the upcoming week, the brite idea, matters. Allow the Bible passage, referenced in the curriculum, to inform your understanding of this as well. During your time with the kids, invite them to consider why the truth that they are learning matters. Give them space to think, to respond, and to listen to the ideas of others. Take time to share from your own time of reflection and personal experiences as well. Trust that by helping kids to consider why God’s truths matter, you are encouraging more intentional engagement with and integration of them, in their lives.

**Navigating a Broken World: Family Drama**

25% of Americans are estranged in some way from their family.\* These disconnects impact kids’ relationships with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other extended family. It is likely that the kids in your group come from a wide range of family backgrounds. Even if you feel you know the families, remember that every family has dynamics that are unknown to others. As you discuss Jesus’ family and background in today’s lesson, be aware that some kids have positive impressions of extended family and some families may be very drama-filled. Give kids a safe space to share about their families. Remember, if a kid shares something that raises concern of neglect or abuse, immediately follow your church’s policy for reporting. Help kids discover that no family is perfect, including Jesus’ earthly family. Families are made up of people who sin, and that is why we all needed Jesus to come.

**\***<https://www.newsweek.com/parenting-family-mom-dad-children-estrangement-cut-off-1739384>

**Large Group Experiences Overview**

 **Welcome**

*Supplies Needed: Family photos, video player*

**Find it in the Bible**

*Supplies Needed: Bible, teaching slides*

**Bible Teaching:**

*Supplies Needed: Printable page, crayons or markers*

**Bible Teaching Review:**

*Supplies Needed: Bible, teaching slides, video player, 2 flashlights, whiteboard or signs that say A, B, D, C*

**Bible Teaching Wrap-Up:**

*Supplies Needed: Bible, teaching slides, video player*

**SPLASH FLOW**

Note: Advance slide at hi lighted lines

Theme Slide

**Kid’s Enter**

 Welcome and encourage to play games/interact with other kids and teachers

**Gather kids into their age groups**

 Do the “Belong” activity with the 2 groups

Play Countdown **when groups are winding down with their “Belong” activity and gather them into the main teaching area**

**Quick Welcome, ask to stand up, then Play worship videos**

Video: “Joy To The World (Joyful, Joyful)”

Video: “This I Believe”

Offering

Theme Slide

**Ask all to sit, then teach through “Bible Teaching” section below**

**Welcome Activity**

**Supplies:** Family photos, video player

**Prep:** Collect family photos from several of your church families. Also include funny photos of cartoon families. Print the photos or upload them to show on the screen.

**Say:** Let’s look at several pictures and see if you can guess who they are.

*Allow kids to look at each picture and comment on who it is. Point out cute or funny things in the pictures.*

**Say:** Did you notice what all of those pictures had in common? They were all families! They were all different, but they were family. We will be learning about Jesus’ family today, but first let’s see what is happening on “In the Spotlight.”

**Intro Video**

*Play the Intro video, then follow the script below****.***

**Say:** Mia has big plans for this show and she plays two crucial roles at the same time – she’s the director *and* the lead actress. It’s definitely going to take her family’s help to make that happen.

**Discuss:** What’s something unique your family has worked together on?

**Say:** Today’s brite\* idea reminds us that Jesus had an earthly family. He was the Son of God, but He was fully human. Let’s find out more!

**Today we will answer these two questions:**

Was Jesus God or human?

How is Jesus like us?

**And at the end of our time today, the question you will be able to answer is:**

What does God want me to know about Him and what does this mean for me?

 **Find It in the Bibl**e

**What is the Bible?**

The Bible is real and true. God gave us the Bible so that we could know Him. The Bible is filled with many books and stories, but it’s all a part of one BIG story—God’s Story.

**What is God’s Bigger Story?**

**Creation:** God is the Creator of all things, and He is very good.

**Fall:** Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God. Sin broke the world and people were separated from God. All people have sinned so the relationship with God is broken for each of us.

**Redemption:** People could not fix their sin problem on their own. God promised all throughout the Old Testament that He would send a Rescuer, a Messiah, to save the people from their sin. He sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life and died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins.

**Restoration:** When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, our relationship with God can be made right again. We don’t do anything to earn it and we don’t deserve it. God restores us through His grace. One day, Jesus will return and restore the whole broken world, making it new again.

**Play “These Are The Books Of The Bible” Song video**

**The video can be viewed at this link:**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OwDywQ5qaqM> **or on our Brite page.**

 **Where is today’s Bible story?**

Today’s story comes from the book of Matthew in the New Testament. The Old Testament tells about everything that happened before Jesus came, including creation, Adam and Eve’s sin, and the stories of God’s family following and disobeying God. There were 400 years of silence from God and His prophets and then the events of the New Testament began. Matthew was written by one of Jesus’ disciples and tells his account of Jesus’ life.

*Open a Bible and show the kids the title page for the book of Matthew. Then show them how to get to today’s Bible passage (Matthew 1:1-17).*

**Bible Teaching: Bible Passage: Matthew 1:1-17**

**Supplies:** Printable page, crayons or markers

**Prep:** Print one copy of the printable page per kid. Pair non-writers with older kids.

**Say:** Family was extremely important to the Israelite people and knowing their genealogy, or lists of family members, was important too. The second half of the Bible, the New Testament, begins with a genealogy, or a list, of Jesus’ earthly family. Sometimes we call that a “family tree.”

*Hand out copies of the printable page. Explain how you’d fill out your family tree from your grandparents down to you and your family. Have kids fill in the left side of the printable page with their family members. Kids can draw faces or write names. Briefly allow kids to share their family trees with other kids near them.*

**Say:** Jesus’ family tree was very special because this list of Jesus’ family shows that God was faithful to keep the promises He gave in the Old Testament. He had promised that the Savior would come from the families of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, and David.

*Lead kids to fill in the right side of the printable page by writing “Abraham” near the bottom of their trunks, and the rest of the names you listed moving up the trunk. Younger kids can draw faces for each person. If an adult or older kid is available, he or she can label the faces for non-writing kids.*

**Read Matthew 1:1-2 directly from the Bible,** *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,*

**Say:** Matthew lists all of these men in Jesus’ family history. God showed that Jesus was the true Savior because He was a descendant of the people God had promised.

*Have kids write “Isaac”, “Jacob”, “Judah”, and “David” on the tree. Have kids write “Jesus” near the top of their trees*.

**Say:** Jesus’ family also shows that God’s plan couldn't be stopped by people’s mistakes. Some of the people in the list of Jesus’ family had messed up in big ways. Some had lied. Several deceived others. I’m wondering, do you have anyone in your family history who made bad choices?

*Raise your hand and allow kids to raise their hands.*

**Say:** Jesus’ family tree wasn’t different. King David even had a man killed so he could steal his wife and cover up his own sin. Jesus’ earthly family was not filled with perfect people. They were humans, just like you and me, who sinned and needed a Savior.

**Say:** God reminds us through the record of Jesus’ family that all people are important to Him and part of His plan. The list includes four women and women were never included in ancient genealogies. God welcomes you into His family, too.

*Let kids add their names to the treetops.*

**POINT TO JESUS**

Jesus came to Earth as a real person with a family. He came as a baby and grew up just like everyone else. However, Jesus never sinned. He was fully human and fully God. As a human He could take our place and take the punishment for our sin. But only God could have the power to defeat death and sin and make a way for us to live with Him forever. Jesus was fully human and fully God, so that He could be the perfect sacrifice for our sin when He died on the cross.

**Bible Teaching: Review**

**Supplies:** Bible, teaching slides, video player, 2 flashlights, whiteboard or signs that say A, B, D, C

**Prep:** Write A, B, C, D on the whiteboard or place signs on the wall.

**Watch the Bible Review Video and then play the game below.**

**Pull two kids to the front and give each a flashlight. Read the question and allow them to use the flashlight to highlight the correct answer. The winner can stay at the front and bring a different kid to the front for the next question.**

1. The New Testament begins with a list of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. **Jesus’ family.** c. Places to go.
3. b. Good people. d. Rules

*The book of Matthew begins with a list of Jesus’ ancestors all the way back to Abraham. This was important to prove that Jesus was the Savior God had promised.*

1. The list of Jesus’ relatives included:
2. Abraham c. Judah.
3. b. David **d. All of the above.**

*God made covenants with Abraham, David, and their descendants that the Savior would come from their family, and specifically the tribe of Judah. This list shows that God kept those promises from long ago.*

3. Did the list of Jesus’ family include people who had lied and even murdered?

1. We don’t know. c. No.
2. Maybe. **b. Yes.**

*Jesus’ family wasn’t full of perfect people. They sinned, just like we all do.*

 4. Who was a woman mentioned in Jesus’ family list?

1. Deborah **c. Ruth**
2. b. Penelope d. Sarah

 5. How does the genealogy show us Jesus was real?

1. **It is a historical record of His family.** c. It has His fingerprints.
2. It has photographs of Him. d. It doesn’t.

*Jesus was a real person in history and had a real family. These records may not mean much to us but they were extremely important in His time.*

 6. The best way to describe Jesus is to say He was:

1. Part God and part human. c. Not God and only human.
2. Only God and not human. d. **Fully God and fully human.**

*Jesus is fully God and fully human. He is the Son of God, but came to Earth in human flesh.*

 7. What is one way Jesus is NOT like us?

1. He was born as a baby. c. He had a family.
2. **He was perfect.** d. He was fully human.

*Jesus is fully human. He had a human family. He came as a baby and grew up just like everyone else. We aren't perfect, but He is.*

**Bible Teaching: Wrap-Up**

**Supplies:** Bible, teaching slides, video player

**Prep:** None

**The brite\* idea for the day is:** Jesus had an earthly family.

**Memory Verse:**

Choose an older kid to look up the verse and read it aloud to the group. Have the whole group repeat it together.

*(She) shall bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel (God with us). Isaiah 7:14b*

**Teaching Wrap-Up**

**He Question: Was Jesus God or human?**

Jesus is fully God and fully human. He is the Son of God, but came to Earth in human flesh.

**We Question: How is Jesus like us?**

Jesus is fully human. He had a human family. He came as a baby and grew up just like everyone else. We aren't perfect, but He is.

**As time permits…**

**Gather kids into their 2 age groups**

Do the “Believing” activity with the 2 groups

 AND/OR

***Do the “Becoming” activity with the 2 groups DEPENDING UPON TIME AVAILABLE***

**Prayer**

God, we know that Jesus understands us because He came as a person. We know that He understands our family struggles because He also had a real family. Thank You for our families and thank You for sending Jesus to die for all of our sins. Amen.