

The One: Matthew 1: 1-17

1. Genealogies. You discover you're directly related to one of these three people. What would be your reaction? Either a) Abraham Lincoln or b) Nelson Mandela or c) Florence Nightingale. Choose one of them. (If you're leading a group discussion, you can, of course, insert alternative choices) What is the importance of one's ancestral roots in today's culture?

2. (Leader preparation: Look this link up in preparation: <http://www.sundayschoolcourses.com/messiah/index.htm>) What's your understanding of the word "Messiah"? Look up the following passages, and share with the group what you think the Jews were expecting. Gen 3:15. I Chron 17: 7-15. Isaiah 4:2-4. Isaiah 11: 1-10. Isaiah 42: 1-4. Isaiah 53. Jer 33: 14-18. Dan 9: 20-27. Zech 9: 9-10.

3. Take a look at covenant God made with Abraham in Genesis 12: 1-3. How do you think that is fulfilled today? In what way does the church bless the world?

4. The women mentioned in the passage illustrate God's willingness to include unexpected people in his plan. How do their stories speak to you? Look them up if you need to. Perhaps choose one story and study it together. Tamar: Gen 38. Rahab: Josh 2. Bathsheba: 1 Kings 1. Ruth: the book of Ruth! What do you learn about God by the inclusion of these women?

5. Name one thing you have learnt about God's character from your discussion. Is it encouraging or challenging?