

Son of David, Son of Abraham

Matthew 1–2

What We Found

- Matthew opens with a genealogy on purpose: the promises God swore to Abraham (blessing for all nations) and to David (an everlasting throne) both come true in Jesus.
- The family tree includes outsiders and scandal-shadowed stories. God has always worked through crooked lines, and no one's past disqualifies them from his plan.
- The child carries two names. Jesus means “the Lord saves” and announces his mission: to save his people from their sins. Emmanuel means “God with us” and announces who he is.
- Scripture and the Church's constant faith hold together: Mary conceived by the Holy Spirit and remained ever-virgin. What looked like a problem verse turned out to be an invitation to read the Bible with the family that wrote it down.
- The Magi sought, found, and worshiped; the scribes could point to Bethlehem from the prophets, yet Matthew records no journey of their own to worship him. Knowing about Christ is not the same as coming to him.

Voices of the Church

Voices of the Church: St. John Chrysostom (Homilies on Matthew)

The evangelist hides none of the sins of Jesus' ancestors. The Physician of souls was not ashamed of the family he entered; he came to heal the wounded line, and the honesty of the genealogy is good news for anyone who fears their past disqualifies them.

Voices of the Church: St. Jerome (Against Helvidius)

In Scripture's own way of speaking, “until” marks a point of emphasis without asserting what follows, and “brothers” in Scripture's idiom can denote kinsmen. Mary's perpetual virginity is the constant faith of the Church, not a later sentiment.

Voices of the Church: St. Leo the Great (Sermons on the Epiphany)

The Magi are the firstfruits of the nations, our ancestors in faith walking ahead of us to Bethlehem. In their gifts the whole mystery is confessed: gold for the King, incense for God, myrrh for the Man who would die.

Live It This Week

- Each morning, pray the Holy Name slowly, “Jesus, save me from my sins,” and let the name mean what the angel said it means.
- Read Matthew 1–2 once more on your own, marking every place Matthew quotes the Old Testament. Bring your count next week.
- Practice Emmanuel: give someone the gift of unhurried presence this week, a visit, a call, a meal, with your phone out of reach.

Scripture Memory

Matthew 1:23 (RSV2CE): *“Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us).*

Before Next Session

Read Matthew 3–4.

Catechism References

CCC 430 · CCC 496–497 · CCC 500 · CCC 528

My Guess (sealed until we reach the scene). Who do you say Jesus is, and how will the world come to know him?

When you have written your answer, fold this section closed and write your name on the outside. Do not discuss it yet. Bring this sheet back when your leader tells you the scene has arrived.