**Lessons from Jesus’ Family History**

**Sermon Based Discussion (November 27, 2016)**

**Receive & Believe (Advent 2016)**

**WARM UP**

1. How far back in your family history can you describe your relatives—names, birth places, etc.? See who has the most extensive knowledge of their family.

[You can sketch a family tree in the space below.]

*In this session, we consider what lessons God wants to teach us through Jesus’ family history. We’ll be looking at a “genealogy”—family lineage of Christ.*

**INTO THE BIBLE (Matthew 1:1-17)**

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (1=lowest, 10=highest), how interesting or important would you find long list of Bible names? If you were reading the Bible and came to list of names like this one in Matthew chapter 1, what would you likely do?
2. Can you recall any of the unusual features about this genealogy from the message? (Hint: first section has 4 women, second section has 4 alternations, third section has a 5th woman and a 5th alteration.)

**UNDERSTANDING**

1. What insights or lessons might Matthew be trying to teach with his genealogy?
2. Why does Matthew specifically structure his genealogy about figures like Abraham and David? (For help, on Abraham see Gen 22:18; on David see 2 Sam 7:12-16)

**DIFFERENCE**

1. One would normally expect Matthew, a follower of Jesus, to avoid mention of embarrassing or scandalous parts of Christ’s family history. How do you feel knowing that Jesus’ family is full of broken people, and that the Bible makes special mention of that?
2. What is one encouragement that you can take from this passage about God sending a Savior to bring in those who are outcast and outside due to our brokenness and sinfulness?

**APPLICATION**

1. What is one principle we as a small group can commit to reflecting upon for this coming week as we head towards Christmas during this Advent season?
2. Who is someone who you can specifically pray for during this Advent to be more open to Jesus, and whom you can perhaps invite to a worship service on Christmas Eve or Christmas Sunday? Pray about God to open doors and soften hearts.