

Day 3: Family likeness

Read

'This is the list of the ancestors of Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, who was a descendant of Abraham.' Matthew 1.1 (GNB)

'I will bless those who bless you,
But I will curse those who curse you.
And through you I will bless all the nations.' Genesis 12.3 (GNB)

Reflect

Enter Abraham. By naming Abraham, Matthew zooms right out on the family history, back to the father of the Jewish nation. In Genesis 12, God called Abraham out of fallen humanity in order to be uniquely blessed and set apart for a redemptive vocation. Through Abraham's offspring, 'all families of the earth shall be blessed' (Genesis 12.3). A seed or offspring of Abraham will somehow convert curses into blessings on a cosmic scale. So Matthew opens his Gospel identifying the baby in Bethlehem as 'son of Abraham'. It's his way of saying: 'Ta dah! World, meet your hope!' And it's one of the first hints in this list that Jesus is the baby who will come and be all that the nation of Israel was intended to be: a blessing. Today's challenges are about family.

Challenge 1

Tell a loved one how much they mean to you

Challenge 2

Ask a friend or family member to tell you about their early life, taking time to really listen

Challenge 3

Fill a small stocking with gifts to give to someone who doesn't have much family this Christmas