

# ADVENT

## ADVENT: MATTHEW 1:1-17

### Community Group Study Guide - Week of November 30, 2020

This week we began our Advent series. Advent is a season when we place extra emphasis on the sense of longing that Old Testament believers experienced as they heard the promises of God and awaited the coming of the Messiah for over 400 YEARS between the time of the prophecy of Malachi and the coming of Christ, as chronicled in the four gospels. We relate to them as we await the second coming of our Lord and Savior to consummate His kingdom and completely free us from the remaining influence that Satan, sin and death have over God's creation. We place extra emphasis on the fact that Jesus Christ is our only hope for experiencing the unadulterated peace, love and joy of God the Father in the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

The ultimate message of Advent, for the encouragement of saints in the church, is that God fulfills His covenant promises. He cannot in His holiness and majesty let His word return void. This gives us great hope that, while living as aliens apart from the fully consummated Kingdom of Heaven, through whatever seasons of darkness that we experience, under the sovereignty of God, light will ultimately come after darkness and God can redeem the most despairing individuals and circumstances. We can trust that, no matter what happens in this life, we will ultimately live in the presence of our Lord and Savior. In response to God's faithfulness to His word, our daily task in life is faithfulness to His commands. We are to be faithful stewards and messengers of the gospel during the time that is given to us before Christ's return.

This week, we turned to Matthew 1:1-17, perhaps the best text in the Bible to usher in the Advent season. The first verse makes the author's purpose clear. He's writing to show that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the anointed God-man, to whom all of the Old Testament points and in whom we should place all of our deepest hopes. He takes great measure to prove this by establishing that Christ is the fulfillment of all of the promises given to Abraham and King David. Matthew was writing primarily to a Jewish audience, but the inclusion of sinful and gentile (as well as female!) figures in the genealogy of Jesus Christ, makes clear the opportunity for salvation in Christ for all sinners, regardless of gender, family lineage, or personal background.

### DISCUSSION GOALS

#### Head

To know that God always fulfills His promises

#### Heart

To trust that Jesus Christ is our savior and that God has the power to redeem the worst sinners and most despairing moments

#### Hands

To march forward as faithful servants of the Lord and messengers of the gospel as we reflect on God's faithfulness to His promises to his children

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### In-Person Worship Services

THIS Sunday, December 6 at 9:30AM and 11:30AM.

**Please go to** <https://brookline.mosaicboston.com/serve> **to sign up to serve on the Mini Mo or Usher Team.**

We will hold a **Prayer Meeting** at 5PM in the Temple sanctuary on **Dec. 6**. This will be open to the public.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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## **Read Matthew 1:1-17**

1. Who was Matthew's primary audience? What measures did the author take to contextualize his gospel presentation to his audience? Which of these measures would be effective when employed by Christians sharing the gospel in our day?
2. **Read Verse 1.** Why is it significant that Matthew points out that Jesus Christ is the son of Abraham? And the son of David? What does the presentation of Jesus as the son of these great OT figures teach us about God's commitment to His promises? How can these lessons impact the way one applies their faith on a daily basis?
3. What is one common experience that all of the people listed in the genealogy have in common? How can reflection and exposure to death serve to enhance one's faith in Jesus Christ? How can closeness to death enhance one's understanding of sin? How has exposure to death/the fragility of life impacted your walk in the faith?
4. What kind of people are included in the genealogy of Jesus Christ? On what basis is a believer saved in both the Old Testament and New Testament? How is this a source of comfort for all sinners, especially those from dysfunctional families?
5. Why is it significant that Matthew included the names of women in the genealogy of Jesus Christ?
6. **Read Verse 17.** What are these numbers all about? What does it mean that Jesus was the "seventh 7"? What does this teach us about the rest that Jesus brings to sinners?
7. What does this genealogy teach us about God's power to redeem the sinful actions and life of an individual? How is this an encouragement to you today?
8. How has the Advent season been a source of encouragement or refreshment for your faith in the past?