

- 1) The genealogy begins with Abraham, who was the recipient of the first covenant with the Israelite people (Genesis 12:1-3) and often considered to be the father of the Jews. What do you think is the significance of the genealogy beginning specifically with Abraham rather than, say, David or Adam? What does it mean for a follower of Jesus to recognize his connection to Abraham?
- 2) The genealogy mentions four women in the family line of Joseph: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba (“the wife of Uriah”). Given what we know about these women, what do you think is significant about their inclusion? What is the significance of these particular women in how we think about Jesus?
- 3) The fifth woman in this genealogy is Mary, the mother of Jesus. How does the inclusion of the four Israelite women inform your understanding of Mary? What do you think this genealogy as a whole tells us about the importance of women in telling the story of Jesus?
- 4) Matthew divides his genealogy into a schema of 14: 14 generations from Abraham to David, 14 from David to Exile, and 14 from Exile to Jesus. What is the significance of framing Israelite history in terms of Abraham to David to Exile to Jesus?
- 5) In fact Matthew’s genealogy only has thirteen generations between Exile and Jesus, which leads some scholars to suggest that the 14<sup>th</sup> generation is the church (that is, us). If you read it that way, how do you understand this genealogy as part of your own story? How do you understand your own story as a continuation of this genealogy?