

Jesus' Genealogies

Materials

- ☐ Genealogy worksheets, one per pair or group (following page)
- ☐ One copy of the answer key for your use (page 3)
- ☐ Pencils/pens
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Lesson 123 Theme Poster

Instructions

Divide students into pairs or groups. Print copies of the Genealogy worksheets for each pair or group. Direct students to follow the instructions on their worksheets to read the passages and answer the questions. When the worksheets are complete, review answers together, choosing different groups to share their answers and spark discussion. Verify answers using the answer key. Have the Lesson 123 Theme Poster to show and discuss along with #10's answer.

Suggested Discussion

There are quite a few similarities between the genealogies given in Matthew and Luke. Important ancestors such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, and King David are in both.

But, the names of Joseph's ancestors are different. That's because Matthew traced the genealogy of Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, while Luke included Mary's ancestors in his genealogy of Jesus. Both Joseph and Mary were descendants of Judah and King David, which fulfilled God's prophecies.

Jesus' Genealogies

Use the genealogies recorded in Matthew 1:1–17 and Luke 3:23–38 to answer the questions below.

Matthew 1:1–17

1. Which ancestor does Jesus' genealogy start with in Matthew 1:2?

2. Based on verse 16, does this genealogy trace Jesus' ancestry through Joseph or Mary?

3. How many total generations are listed? (Hint: add up the generations given in verse 17.)

4. What names do you recognize in this genealogy?

5. What women's names are included? (Hint: there are five.)

Luke 3:23–38

6. Which ancestor does Jesus' genealogy work back to in Luke 3:38?

7. How is Luke's genealogy different from Matthew's?

8. Why do you think Luke said Jesus was "the supposed" son of Joseph?

9. What names do you recognize that were also in Matthew's genealogy?

10. Why do you think Luke traced Jesus' genealogy back to Adam while Matthew went only as far back as Abraham? (Hint: it has to do with their purpose and intended readers, which we learned about in Lesson 123.)

Jesus' Genealogies Answer Key

Use the genealogies recorded in Matthew 1:1–17 and Luke 3:23–38 to answer the questions below.

Matthew 1:1–17

1. Which ancestor does Jesus' genealogy start with in Matthew 1:2? Abraham.
2. Based on verse 16, does this genealogy trace Jesus' ancestry through Joseph or Mary? Joseph.
3. How many total generations are listed? (Hint: add up the generations given in verse 17.) 42.
4. What names do you recognize in this genealogy? Answers will vary.
5. What women's names are included? (Hint: there are five.) Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, wife of Uriah (Bathsheba), Mary.

Luke 3:23–38

6. Which ancestor does Jesus' genealogy work back to in Luke 3:38? Adam, the son of God.
7. How is Luke's genealogy different from Matthew's? Matthew's genealogy moves forward from Abraham to Joseph while Luke's moves backward from Jesus to Adam. No descriptions or women are included in Luke's list. Luke's list is longer than Matthew's.
8. Why do you think Luke said Jesus was "the supposed" son of Joseph? Because Joseph was not Jesus' real biological father since Mary was a virgin. Joseph was chosen to act as an earthly father to Jesus. Jesus was the Son of God. Also, this indicates that the genealogy is not Joseph's but Mary's.
9. What names do you recognize that were also in Matthew's genealogy? Answers will vary but should include King David, Judah, Jacob, Isaac, and Abraham.
10. Why do you think Luke traced Jesus' genealogy back to Adam while Matthew went only as far back as Abraham? (Hint: it has to do with their purpose and intended readers, which we learned about in Lesson 123.) Show the Lesson 123 Theme Poster. Matthew was writing to Jews, so it was important to emphasize that Jesus was the son of Abraham, and his Gospel teaches that Jesus is the King of the Jews, so it was important that Jesus was descended from "David the king." Luke was writing to Gentiles, so it was necessary to give a complete history of Jesus' ancestry. Luke's purpose was to show that Jesus was the Savior of mankind, so he traced all the way back to Adam, the first man. This genealogy also emphasizes that Jesus is Savior to all, not just Jews.