



# Christmas is For the Messy

Matthew 1 | December 21, 2025

## Why does Matthew start Jesus’ birth account with a long list of names?

Matthew wants us to know that in a world full of sin, let’s start with God’s grace because grace is at the core of Jesus’ arrival.

### Here’s what we learn about Jesus’ messy family tree:

- » Our past mistakes don’t disqualify us from being in God’s story.
- » God doesn’t flinch at our mess – He steps right into it.
- » Obedience is messy; disobedience is messier.
- » Only God can clean our mess.

*...he will save his people from their sins.*

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Christmas Eve** on Dec. 24 at 1:00, 2:30, 4:00, 5:30, and 7:00 PM

**Christmas Break** from Dec. 25 to Jan. 2 — building closed

**Blood Drive** on Jan 5 from Noon to 6:00 PM

**Women’s Bible Study** begins the week of Jan. 20

**Kids Elementary Retreat** from Jan. 23 to Jan. 24

**Download our WCChurch app or scan the QR code for more info or to sign up!**



# STUDY QUESTIONS

## GETTING STARTED:

What's one of your funniest memories from a family gathering around Christmas?

What are you looking forward to or not looking forward to at this year's Christmas gatherings?

## A DEEPER DIVE:

- How does knowing that Jesus' family tree includes people with messy pasts and serious sins change your understanding of God's grace and your own worthiness to be part of His story?
- Why do you think Matthew intentionally included women and their stories in Jesus' genealogy when it was culturally unusual to do so, and what does this reveal about God's view of outsiders and the marginalized?
- Joseph's initial response to Mary's pregnancy was to walk away quietly. What messes or difficult situations in your own life are you currently avoiding rather than facing head-on?
  - What would it look like to face your situation head-on? Reflect on the Bison illustration and how the Bison walks towards the storm.
- The sermon states that grace doesn't fit in a box and sometimes hurts. What does it mean for grace to be messy, and how have you experienced this uncomfortable aspect of grace in your own life?
- "Your past doesn't define your future with God. Grace does." What in your past do you struggle to believe God's grace can cover? What would it look like to truly believe this statement?

## NEXT STEPS:

Take some time to reflect on these questions:

- Is there a "mess" in my life I've been avoiding?
- What would it look like to invite God into that mess this week?
- Is there someone I need to extend messy grace to?