

60-Day New Testament Journey
Does My Past Determine My Future?
January 5/6, 2013

Memorize

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. – Ephesians 2:10, NIV

Connect (*choose one*)

1. If you were to design a coat of arms for your family, what symbols would you choose? Why?

2. Have you or someone in your family ever mapped out your family tree? What did you discover? Were there any “oddities” or “black sheep” in your ancestry?

Commit to Growth

Read Matthew 1:1-18

1. What title does Matthew assign Jesus in verses 1 & 16? What is the meaning of each title? Why would it be important to show that Jesus' lineage went back to Abraham and David?

2. Why do you think women were included in this genealogy, when it was not Jewish custom to include women's names in genealogies? What do you know about these women?

3. From this genealogy, we see that God has been writing a story and shaping the narrative of Israel for centuries so that Jesus could be understood. In the same way, you and I are part of a much bigger story, written by God himself. What does it mean to you that God's promises are trustworthy over the generations?

4. Consider some of the "cast of characters" in Jesus' genealogy. How does knowing their past and yet prominence in God's story, help you better understand God's grace and mercy? How does the fact that God uses flawed people to accomplish his will, encourage you in your relationship with him?

5. From this genealogy we learn that each person matters to God! How will you try to notice each person that God writes into the story of your life? What can you do to love people one person at a time in 2013?

6. Discuss what you hope to get out of the 60-Day New Testament Journey. What are some of the obstacles that might prevent you from keeping up with the reading? What will you do to overcome these obstacles?

For Further Study

As you read through the list of characters in Jesus' family tree, look up some of their stories and record your impressions...

- *Rahab: Joshua 2:1-4; Joshua 6:16-26; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25*
- *Ruth: The Book of Ruth*
- *Bathsheba: 2 Samuel 11:1-4; 2 Samuel 12:23-25*
- *Judah and Tamar: Genesis 38*

To enhance your daily reading, remember to read our daily devotion online at www.60day.adventurechurch.org!