

# Unexpected Family: *Unexpected Christmas*

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Sermon Discussion Guide for the week of Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

Primary Scriptures: **Matthew 1: 1-16**

## Relationships

*As you begin the study portion of your gathering ask one (or more) of these questions to help your group focus their attention.*

Why do you think so many people are interested in discovering their DNA make-up?

Who is someone, alive or dead, from your family tree that you would like to meet in person?  
Why?

## Scripture

**Have a volunteer read Matthew 1:1-16**

Do you have any famous ancestors? Do you have any family members that you conveniently forget to mention?

How connected do you feel to your heritage?

Who would you be surprised to find out was a “sinner” in your genealogy?

What do you know about Jesus’ genealogy? What surprises you about his ancestry?

Why do you think the genealogy of Jesus was so important to the Jewish people?

How important is this genealogy to you personally?

We all have a tendency to polish up our memories and highlight the good stuff from someone’s life when we remember them. God doesn’t do that in scripture, why do you think that is?

**Have a volunteer Read Matthew 1:18-23.**

Have you ever kept a promise over a long time? Or has a promise been kept that was made to you? What did that mean to you?

God made promises throughout the Old Testament that he would redeem his people Israel and the whole world. The birth of Jesus was part of these promises. What does it mean to you that God keeps his promises even over the centuries?

How could God use your weakness and failures to help others?

How scared would you be if your biggest failures were written down and shared around the world?

Would you be able to truly trust God to use your story to help others?

### **Mission**

Who are the most despised characters in modern society? Which ones do you think Jesus would not spend time with?

### **Have a volunteer Read Matthew 9:9-13.**

Jesus seems to be okay with mixing it up with sinners. How does Jesus model living a godly life without removing yourself from the company of sinners?

Jesus makes a statement about the healthy and the sick. Would you consider yourself more “healthy” or “sickly”?

### **Development**

Jesus has a habit of using people who are honest about their failings. What prevents you from being honest with Jesus about your life?

What prevents you from being honest about who you really are with others?

What can you do this week to focus on what Jesus has done for you rather than your own attempts at piety?

### **Pray**