



# Hidden Christmas

## BLESS Rhythms

**BLESS:** This is the practice of blessing another person. It can be big or small (buying coffee, encouraging text/email, etc.). *Who have you blessed this week?*

**LISTEN:** This is the practice of listening, both to God and to others. *How did you set time aside this week to be a listener?*

**EAT:** This is the practice of sharing food with people. This can happen in a home or in a coffee shop. *Who are you eating with/ inviting into your home?*

**SPEAK:** This is the practice of speaking faith. It can happen through encouragement, story sharing, and evangelism. *How have you spoken your faith this week?*

**SABBATH:** This is the practice of resting from work and taking time to rest and enjoy creation. *How are you practicing Sabbath this week?*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS December 8, 2019

1. Dave mentioned in his sermon that Christians often do a poor job telling the story of Christmas. It often feels like a quaint (even cheesy) story about a cute baby, rather than a world changing event. Do you agree? Why or why not?
2. Matthew could have started his gospel account in a variety of ways. Why do you think he starts by writing out a genealogy?
  - a) Why are genealogies important?
  - b) Take a look at the names included in Chapter 1. What stands out to you?
3. Scholars agree that Matthew is doing something unusual as he writes Jesus' genealogy. He's including people who are "thoroughly disreputable." Why do you think he does this?
4. Why do you think Matthew goes out of his way to include this particular group of women in Jesus family line?
  - a) How does it foreshadow the goal of Jesus' ministry?
  - b) How is the inclusion of these people good news for us today?
5. Dave mentioned in his sermon that the gospel is a radical equalizer. No matter what your status was or what you did before becoming a Christian, when you come to faith you become a child of God, an heir of the kingdom, and a sister or brother in the family of faith (see Galatians 3:28).
  - a) Have you experienced this kind of equality in the church?
  - b) Where do you think we still need to grow?
6. What does this genealogy teach us about God's patience and timing?

*Spend time in prayer*



A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham:  
 Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,  
 Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar...

Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,

Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth...

Matthew 1:1-3, 5

N H  
 E P O H  
 G R V I X C  
 N G L O B A L K  
 I E H S A M Y P G Q  
 M J T D S Y O R M M N S  
 I D U Z O E K O Y A S I I E  
 T P R R Y W T M Z W Q V Y C T V  
 Y C A N A A N I T E S S R I H V I E  
 W F G H U B M S B L H G O L M A R P A N  
 X P Q O D A E C A I R T H O M I U J R W  
 A A I L S D T O A S O T N O S E Q O  
 D T N A D A M I M H B Q B S N G  
 R I V E A H Z E K A N U E T  
 O E T N Y R A M H S A M  
 C N U E I S R A E L  
 E C X G F U R Z  
 R E H A B W  
 C X I I  
 I P

**Matthew Genealogy  
 WORDSEARCH**

- CANAANITES
- GENEALOGY
- GLOBAL
- HISTORY
- HOPE
- ISRAEL
- JESUS
- MARY
- MESSIAH
- MOABITNESS
- MOTHER
- PATIENCE
- PROMISES
- RAHAB
- RECORD
- RUTH
- SEVEN
- SON
- TAMAR
- TIMING
- WAITING

**Family Focused Ideas: Thinking Genealogy and Your History**

**Family History**

- Talk to your oldest family member and ask them about stories of their grandparents.
- How important is it to know the stories (the history) of your family?
- How long has your family lived in Canada? (Generations or years?)
- What are some of the stories of your cultural heritage?

**Activities**

- Draw your family tree as far back into history as you can.
- As a family or group name as many countries as you can (from memory) and consider God's love and plan of hope is for all people
- The Israelites had to wait a very long time for Jesus. *Try this game:* pick a partner and sit across from one another, the one who can stay absolutely silent and still the longest wins.