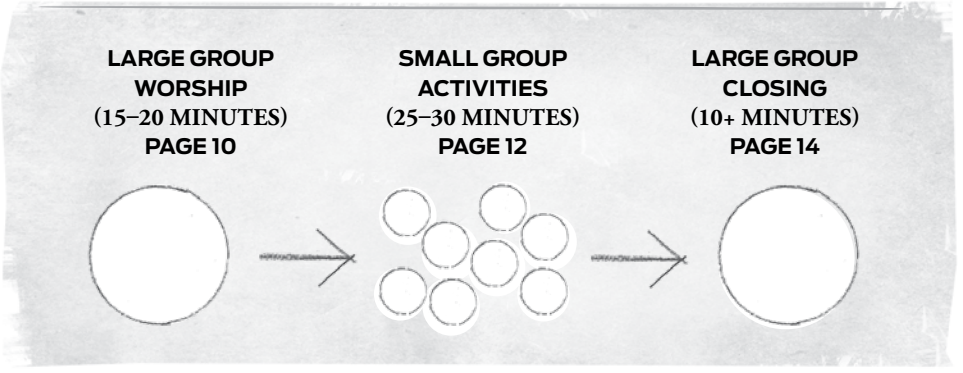
1 From Abraham to Jesus

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 1:1-17

MAIN POINT: Jesus had a family.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Timothy 1:15

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What makes Jesus different? Jesus is God's One and Only Son.



Leader BIBLE STUDY

The prophecies concerning Jesus' birth are numerous, and many of them refer to Jesus' lineage. Old Testament prophecies tell of the promised Messiah being born from the seed of a woman (Gen. 3:15); from the seed of Abraham (Gen. 22:18), Isaac (Gen. 21:12), and Jacob (Num. 24:17); from the tribe of Judah (Micah 5:2); from the line of Jesse (Isa. 11:1); and from the house of David (Jer. 23:5). The prophecies said He would be born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14) and would be the Son of God (1 Chr. 17:13-14; Ps. 2:7). Jesus fulfilled all of these prophecies.

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In Bible times, Jews took great care to accurately record family genealogies. The family a person belonged to was directly linked to property rights. Matthew 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-38 both chronicle the genealogy of Jesus. The account in Matthew presents Jesus as the king of the Jews—the legal heir to the throne of David. The account in Luke was written to Greek Christians and focuses on Jesus' descent from Adam.

Jesus was born as a baby in Bethlehem. He had earthly parents, Mary and Joseph, but His true Father is God. Jesus is fully God and fully man.

As fully God, in Him "the entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily" (Col. 2:9). As fully man, Jesus has a human body, human mind, and human emotions. (See Luke 2:7,52; Matt. 26:38.) He is our sinless representative (2 Cor. 5:21), sympathetic high priest (Heb. 4:15), and substitute sacrifice (1 John 4:10).

Use this Bible story with the preschoolers you teach to review Jesus' ancestors and their stories in the Old Testament. Help preschoolers recognize that God had been working out His plan to send Jesus over hundreds of years—through Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Jesse, David, Solomon, and Josiah. God sent Jesus to earth to save people from their sins.

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Additional resources for each session are available at *gospelproject.com.* For free training and session-by-session help, visit *http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.*

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Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use the timeline:** As you come to each descendant of Jesus in the story, point to that person on the timeline or big story circle.
- **Stick people counting:** Draw stick figures to represent all of the people that will be mentioned as you read the Bible story script. Cut out the figures. Give a stick figure to preschoolers to hold up as you read that person's name.

From Abraham to Jesus

Matthew 1:1-17

Jesus is God's Son. No one made Him; He has always existed. Long ago, God planned to send His Son to earth to save people from sin. Jesus came to earth as a baby. Jesus' mother was Mary, and she was married to Joseph. The Bible tells us that Jesus is different from any other man—He is fully God, and He is fully human too.

God gave Jesus a family on earth. Jesus had parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, great-great-grandparents, great-great-great-grandparents, and so on. Jesus' family was big! Jesus came from the family of Abraham and King David.

Long before Jesus came to earth, Abraham had a son. His name was Isaac. When Isaac had a family, one of his sons was named Jacob. Jacob was part of Jesus' family too.

Later, a man named Salmon (SAL mahn) was born into Jesus' family. He married a woman named Rahab (RAY hab). Rahab helped God's people by hiding their spies when they came to Jericho. Rahab had a baby named Boaz (BOH az). Boaz grew up and became a farmer. He married Ruth. Boaz and Ruth had a son named Obed (OH bed).

Obed was the father of Jesse. Jesse had many sons. His youngest son was David. When David was young, God chose him to be king of Israel.

David was not the only king in Jesus' family. **David's son Solomon was** a king. King Jehoshaphat (jih HAHSH uh fat) was **part of Jesus' family, and so was** Uzziah (uh ZIGH uh), Ahaz (AY haz), Hezekiah (HEZ ih kigh uh), and Josiah.

Then came Matthan (MAT than). Matthan's son was

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named Jacob, and Jacob's son was named **Joseph. Joseph** is the man who **married Jesus' mother, Mary. Joseph raised Jesus as his own son. Jesus is God's Son, the One God promised to send to save people from sin.**

Christ Connection: Jesus came to earth as a baby. He had parents on earth—Mary and Joseph—but His true Father is God. God sent Jesus to keep His promises to Abraham and David. Jesus rescues people from sin and makes them part of God's family.

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Large Group WORSHIP

SESSION TITLE: From Abraham to Jesus
BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 1:1-17
MAIN POINT: Jesus had a family.
KEY PASSAGE: 1 Timothy 1:15
BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What makes Jesus different? Jesus is God's One and Only Son.

Welcome and worship with song

- "He Is G-O-D" song
- "What Makes Jesus Different" song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as "He Is G-O-D" to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in "What Makes Jesus Different."

Watch or tell the Bible story

- paper
- pencil or pen
- Bible
- "From Abraham to Jesus" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Invite preschoolers to tell you the names of people in their family. Write down each name as preschoolers say it. Show preschoolers the list.

SAY • Look at all the people in our families! When we think about great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents, we see that families are very big! Did you know Jesus had a family here on earth? He had a big family too. We know many of the people in Jesus' family from the Bible stories we have learned.

Open your Bible to Matthew 1. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- Bible
- "Globe" printable
- Key Passage Poster
- "Into the World" song

Place the "Globe" printable at 1 Timothy 1:15 in your Bible. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time

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and open the Bible to the key passage. Hold up the globe. Explain that the globe is what the earth looks like from very far away. The globe represents the world and all people on earth. Read the key passage several times.

SAY • When Jesus came into the world, **Jesus had a family.** His parents on earth were Mary and Joseph, but God is His true Father. Jesus left heaven and came into the world for a very special reason. He came to save sinners like you and me.

Sing the key passage song "Into the World" together.

Learn the big picture question and answer

- Big Picture Question Poster

SAY • Our big picture question is, ***What makes Jesus different?*** Let's think about this. What makes Jesus different from any other human? [*Take responses.*] This is our big picture answer: ***Jesus is God's One and Only Son.*** The Bible tells us that Jesus is different from any other man—He is fully God, and He is fully human too.

Respond through song and prayer

- Main Point Poster
- "What Makes Jesus Different" song
- "God's Only Son" song
- "I Am With You" song
- offering basket

SAY • When Jesus was on earth, **Jesus had a family.** He had parents on earth—Mary and Joseph—but His true Father is God. God sent Jesus to keep His promises to Abraham and David. Jesus rescues people from sin and makes them part of God's family.

Sing "What Makes Jesus Different" and "God's Only Son " as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing "I Am With You." You may also collect an offering.

SAY • God, thank You for sending a Savior through Abraham and David's family. Thank You that, through Jesus, we can part of Your family! Amen.

Transition to small groups

- countdown video (optional)

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Small Group ACTIVITIES

SESSION TITLE: From Abraham to Jesus
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MAIN POINT: Jesus had a family.
KEY PASSAGE: 1 Timothy 1:15
BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What makes Jesus different? Jesus is God's One and Only Son.

Sing "Father Abraham"

Lead preschoolers in singing "Father Abraham" with the traditional motions. If you are unfamiliar with the song, check it out online before class.

SAY • **Jesus had a family.** Jesus was part of Abraham's family. Before Abraham even had one son, God promised him that he would have more people in his family than Abraham would ever be able to count!

- blocks

Build a house

Invite children to build a house out of blocks. Encourage older preschoolers to build different rooms in the house.

SAY • Most of the time, we live in houses with members of our families. **Jesus had a family,** and He lived with them as He was growing up. His parents on earth were Mary and Joseph, but God is Jesus' true Father.

- plastic tub
- plastic tablecloth
- play sand
- plastic people figures
- sand toys

Play in sand

Place a plastic tub filled with a few inches of sand on a tablecloth-covered table. Hide people figures in the sand. Invite preschoolers to use sand toys to discover the people figures. Preschoolers may also play out family beach scenes.

SAY • Long ago, God told Abraham that his family would

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have more people than there are grains of sand on the seashore. God said the whole world would be blessed through Abraham's family. God sent Jesus to keep His promise to Abraham. ***Jesus is God's One and Only Son.*** Jesus came to rescue the world from sin and make people part of God's family.

Work Bible story puzzles

- past Bible story pictures
- scissors (adult use)
- ziplock bags

Gather Bible story pictures from past units that show Jesus' relatives mentioned in the Bible story. Cut each picture into four to six pieces and place them in a ziplock bag. Give a preschooler a puzzle and invite him to assemble it. Tell the preschooler about the person in the puzzle and how they are part of Jesus' family on earth.

SAY • **Jesus had a family.** We learned about many of the people in Jesus' family as we have been hearing stories from the Bible. Jesus had parents on earth—Mary and Joseph—but His true Father is God. God sent Jesus to keep His promises to Abraham and David. Jesus rescues people from sin and makes them part of God's family.

Fingerprint family

- paper
- washable ink pad
- crayons
- wet wipes (for cleanup)

Provide paper and washable ink pads. Invite a preschooler to make one finger print on her paper for each member of her family. Then she may use markers or crayons to draw faces and bodies to complete the picture of her family.

SAY • **Jesus had a family.** The Bible tells us He had a mom and dad, as well as siblings and grandparents. ***What makes Jesus different? Jesus is God's One and Only Son.***

Transition to large group closing

- countdown video (optional)

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Large Group CLOSING

SESSION TITLE: From Abraham to Jesus
BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 1:1-17
MAIN POINT: Jesus had a family.
KEY PASSAGE: 1 Timothy 1:15
BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What makes Jesus different? Jesus is God's One and Only Son.

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "Into the World" song
- "What Makes Jesus Different" song

Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

1. Who is God's Son? (*Jesus*)
2. Who was Jesus' dad on earth? Who was Jesus' mom? (*Joseph, Mary*)
3. Can you remember some of the names of Jesus' ancestors? (*Answers will vary.*)
4. Why did Jesus come to earth? (*to save people from sin*)
5. ***What makes Jesus different? Jesus is God's One and Only Son.***

SAY • Long ago, God made a plan to send Jesus to earth to save us from our sin. God promised that Jesus would come through Abraham's family, and God kept that promise. **Jesus had a family.** In many ways, Jesus is like you and me, but something made Jesus different. ***What makes Jesus different? Jesus is God's One and Only Son.***

Sing the key passage song or unit theme song.

Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

SAY • God, thank You for sending Jesus into the world

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to save us from our sin. Thank You for keeping the promises You made to Abraham and David. Help us to turn from our sin and follow You so that we can be part of Your family. Amen.

Missions story

- "Jesus Brings Joy" video
- "Missions Prayer Cards" printable, 1 per child

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, discuss the activity and the reasons for it. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how we can tell people about Jesus and pray that they will follow Him so they can be part of God's family. You may also show the "Jesus Brings Joy" video.

SAY • Monica and Crystal live in Mali, where they work with the Senufo-Supyire (sen OO foh soo PEER ay) people. Monica and Crystal tell these people stories from the Bible. One of the men put his trust in Jesus and was baptized! Let's pray that more of the Senufo-Supyire people believe the good news about Jesus through Monica and Crystal's stories.

Share family favorites

- paper plate
- marker
- construction paper
- scissors
- paper fastener

Tip: Be sensitive to each child's family situation.

Mark off six sections on a paper plate. Label them *Dinner, Snack, Drink, Job, Animal*, and *Game*. Draw simple images for each category. Use a construction paper arrow and a paper fastener to make the plate a spinner. Invite a child to spin the spinner. Call on two children per spin to tell their father's or mother's favorite item in that category. Offer suggestions if preschoolers are not sure of family favorites.

SAY • **Jesus had a family.** Joseph raised Jesus as his own son. The Bible tells us that Joseph's job was a carpenter. Jesus was a carpenter too, just like Joseph. Jesus' true Father is God. Jesus did the work God the Father gave Him to do. God sent Jesus to rescue people from sin and make them part of God's family.

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ABRAHAM

DAVID

JESUS

Jesus came from the line of David and Abraham - fulfilling God's promises to the both of them!

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