

THIS CHRISTMAS

Week 1

BRBC Groups

November 29, 2020

Scripture | Matthew 1, Isaiah 7:1-17

Ice Breaker | 1. Growing up what was your favourite Christmas tradition? Is it something you still try to do?

- Going Deeper**
1. Is there anything that stood out to you from Sunday's message, or do you have any questions?
 2. Have you ever broken a promise or had someone break a promise they made to you? What were some of the consequences?
 3. Do you find waiting easy? Why or why not?
 4. Read Matthew 1:1-16
 5. What titles does Matthew assign Jesus in verses 1 and 16? What is the meaning of each title?
 6. Who do you recognize in this list of names? What do you know about them?
 7. In Jesus time, women were not listed in genealogies. Typically it was the lineage of men that concerned first century people. Knowing this, why do you think Matthew names women in Jesus genealogy? What do you know about these women?
 8. Why do you think Matthew starts off his written of the good news with a list of names?
 9. Who in your genealogy helped you to know the Good News of Jesus?
 10. Read Isaiah 7:1-9. Ahaz found himself under attack from two of his enemies. The prophet Isaiah was sent to remind the besieged king of God's promise to protect his people if the king would stand firm in his faith. Despite knowing God's promises to take care of us, why do we look to others and to ourselves instead of God? How have you seen this in your life or in the lives of those you know?
 11. Read Isaiah 7:10-17. Ahaz had already made his mind up to turn to the reigning superpower, Assyria, for help (2 Kings 16:7-9), not God (Isaiah 7:12). As a result God declared that he would turn Assyria against the nation and judge them for their lack of faith. And yet God would give them a sign that he would still be with them even through these hard times (Isaiah 7:14). God is still faithful despite our lack of faith. Is there an area of your life where you are tempted to doubt that God will come through? How will you trust him to be faithful to his promises?
 12. Read Matthew 1:18-25
 13. How would you feel in Joseph's place in verse 19? How about in 20 and 21?
 14. 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?
 15. What are you waiting and hoping for from God today?