

Jesus' Family and Family Tree

Matthew 1:1-17



New Testament 1
Part 1: Early Life of Christ

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 1 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Matthew 1:1-17; 13:53-58; Mark 6:3; Luke 3:23-38; 4:22; John 6:42; 2 Timothy 2:8

MEMORY WORK:

“A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches” (Proverbs 22:1a).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- [“Do You Obey?”](#)
- [“Away in a Manger”](#)
- [“Jesus Was a Child Like You”](#)
- [“Oh, Be Careful, Little Eyes, What You See”](#)
- [“A Happy Family”](#)
- [“My Savior has A First Name”](#)
- [“The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock”](#)
- [“God Gave Me My Family”](#)
- [“The Books of the New Testament”](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [Jesus' Birth & Sermon](#) Bible fact cards (provided under “N.T. 1 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)
- Apologetics Press' [Bible Timeline](#)
- “Summary of the Bible” from [“Kids Prep”](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- “Matthew Chapter Summary” from [“Kids Prep”](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces of a Bible times family and a modern-day family
- Mirror
- Newspaper clippings about robberies, etc.
- Boyhood and Early Ministry A Beka picture set (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*)



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

My family is important to me and to God. I want to choose right actions and right words so that others will think only good things about my family and me when they hear my name.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Jesus was the Son of God, but He came to this Earth from heaven as the son of Mary. When Mary and Joseph married, Joseph treated Jesus like his own son. Mary and Joseph loved Jesus very much, as they did their other children.


INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

[Review the sons of Jacob; see “The Sons of Jacob” from Jeff Miller’s [Kids Prep](#) CD for a song] Does anyone remember from a previous lesson this quarter which of the sons of Jacob did Jesus descend from? (Judah)

Jesus was the Son of God, but He came to this Earth from heaven as the son of Mary. When Mary and Joseph married, Joseph treated Jesus like his own son. Mary and Joseph loved Jesus very much, as they did their other children. We know Jesus had four (half) brothers (James, Judas/Jude, Joseph, and Simon). He also had some (half) sisters, but the Bible does not tell us their names (Matthew 13:53-58).

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Jesus grew up in the small town of Nazareth (in Galilee), learning from Joseph to be a carpenter (Mark 6:3). Jesus grew up just like you and just like every other child since Cain and Abel: playing games, learning to read, etc. Since there were so many children in the household, and since most people of that time were poor, Jesus probably grew up in a poor family. But it surely was a happy home where the children were loved.



NOTE: The Bible does not tell us of any miracles that Jesus performed until He began His public ministry. Rather, we are told that He performed His first miracle at the wedding in Cana (John 2:1-11). So, Jesus was a “normal” child in every way. He was so “normal,” in fact, that His brothers did not believe He was the Messiah. They only came to believe in His deity after His resurrection. Some or all of them were with the apostles on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 1:14). His brother James was an elder in the Jerusalem church and wrote the book that bears his name. Jesus’ brother Jude (Judas) wrote the shortest book in the New Testament.

2. Mary and Joseph knew that their family, like all others, was important to God. They knew how important it was to teach the children in their home to love God and His Word. They taught them to share, to be responsible, to do their part, and to help and support one another. They taught their children to obey God’s Word and to make good choices. Even Jesus had to make choices about doing right and wrong. Everything He did and said as a child was a reflection on His earthly family. When He began to teach people away from Nazareth, everything He did and said as a grown-up was a reflection on His family and on His heavenly Father.

3. When you look in a mirror, whose face do you see? You see yours, of course. And who do you look like? You look like your parents and grandparents. The mirror gives back a picture of your face. What you do and what you say reflects (gives back) a “picture” of the kind of person you are. Your behavior also reflects on your family. Your bad choices will cause other people to think bad things about your parents or other people in your family. [Use newspaper clippings or magazine articles about crimes committed. Remind children that the people who did those terrible things have families who will be hurt or shamed by their bad actions.]
4. When you hear the names of Cain or Judas or Jezebel, what do you think of? Their names remind us of very wicked people. When you hear “David” or “Noah” or “Paul,” what do you think of? We remember those people for their godly lives. What do you think about when you hear the name _____ [some celebrity, sports figure]? Those people make terrible mistakes sometimes. Your name is very important. When other people hear your last name, they think about your parents and your grandparents, and the kind of people they are/were. When they hear your name, what do they think about? Your actions will determine what people think of you and your family when they hear your name. Practice memorizing Proverbs 22:1.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- [“Jesus’ Family Tree Coloring Sheet”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Help each child make a magnetized name plate using 4x6 pieces of craft foam or construction paper. Have each child write his/her name (or help them do it). Write the memory verse on the top or bottom of the foam piece. Help children add a strip of adhesive magnetic tape to the back, and then glue “jewels” on the front corners.
- [“Do You Obey?”](#) Game (See end of lesson for song and directions)
- Look up the names of the children who normally attend Bible class and print out the meaning of their names. Discuss with the class what each child’s name means. Also discuss how in Bible times, names were chosen for their meaning.

1st-2nd Graders:

- Purchase a small mirror and “jeweled” pieces for each child at a craft store. Let children glue “jewels” on the mirror, and write today’s memory verse on the mirror with a Sharpie or paint pen. Or purchase wooden picture frames that can be decorated by the kids, with their pictures in the frame.
- Look up the names of the children who normally attend Bible class and print out the meaning of their names. Discuss with the class what each child’s name means. Also discuss how in Bible times, names were chosen for their meaning.
- [“Jesus’ Family & Family Tree”](#) word search (provided in activity sheets)
- Have children research the meaning of their name and bring it to class Wednesday night for discussion with the class.
- [“Jesus’ Family Tree Chronological Activity”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- After the lesson, have students name actions that help them have a good name. Have them tell actions that make them have a bad name.

3rd-4th Graders:

- Have the children read Luke chapters 1-2.
- “[Jesus’ Family & Family Tree](#)” word search (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Jesus’ Family Tree Chronological Activity](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read the following:
 - *Discovery* article: “When Was Jesus Born?” ([December, 2005](#))
- Pair up students and let them use a Bible concordance to find references to the following names of Jesus: Lamb of God, Son of Man, King of the Jews, Rabbi, Messiah (“[Names of Jesus](#)” matching activity worksheet provided in activity sheets)
- Pair up students and let them look up the following “I Am” passages to find out what Jesus called Himself: John 6:48; 8:12; 10:7,11; 13:13; 14:6; 15:5. Have students write the names on construction paper and put them on the wall/bulletin board surrounding the words, “I Am.”
- After the lesson, have students name actions that help them have a good name. Have them tell actions that make them have a bad name.

SONGS:

“DO YOU OBEY?” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

Game Song and Directions (Tune: “London Bridge”)

What do your parents say to do,
say to do, say to do?
What do your parents say to do?
Do you obey?

What do your parents do for you,
do for you, do for you?
What do your parents do for you
to take care of you?

[Sing this song as you play “London Bridge.” When you capture a child in the “bridge,” the child will tell you one way he/she obeys his/her parents, or one way his/her parents take care of them.]

“AWAY IN A MANGER” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: James Ramsey Murry

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where He laid,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,
But little, Lord Jesus no crying did make.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little, Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.

“JESUS WAS A CHILD LIKE YOU” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Mary had a Little Lamb”)

Jesus was a child like you, child like you, child like you.

Jesus was a child like you. He once was just like you.

Jesus liked to run and play, run and play, run and play.

Jesus liked to run and play; Run and play like you.

Jesus prayed to God on high, God on high, God on high.

Jesus prayed to God on high, He prayed to God like you.

Jesus went to sleep at night, sleep at night, sleep at night.

Jesus went to sleep at night, He went to sleep like you.

“OH, BE CAREFUL, LITTLE EYES, WHAT YOU SEE” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

Oh, be careful little eyes what you see.

(REPEAT)

For the Father up above,

Is looking down in love.

So, be careful little eyes what you see.

Oh, be careful little feet where you go....

Oh, be careful little ears what you hear....

Oh, be careful little mouth what you say....

Oh, be careful little hands what you do....

“A HAPPY FAMILY” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

My daddy, my mommy, and me, we're a happy family.

We work and play together,

My daddy, my mommy, and me.

My daddy, my mommy, and me, we're a happy family.

We read our Bibles together,

My daddy, my mommy, and me.

My daddy, my mommy, and me, we're a happy family.

We pray and sing together,

My daddy, my mommy, and me.

“MY SAVIOR HAS A FIRST NAME” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: Oscar Mayer Bologna song)

My Savior has a first name;
It's J-E-S-U-S.
My Savior has a second name;
It's C-H-R-I-S...T!
Oh, I love Him more and more each day,
And if you ask me why I'll say,
'Cause Jesus makes a specialty,
Of L-O-V-I-N-G me!

“THE WISE MAN BUILT HIS HOUSE UPON THE ROCK” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Ann Omley

The wise man built his house upon the rock. (Repeat 2 times)

And the rains came tumbling down.

Oh! The rains came down and the floods came up.

The rains came down and the floods came up. (Repeat)

And the wise man's house stood firm.

But! The foolish man built his house upon the sand.

The foolish man built his house upon the sand. (Repeat)

And the rains came tumbling down.

Oh! The rains came down and the floods came up.

The rains came down and the floods came up. (Repeat)

And the foolish man's house went “splat!”

So! Build your house on the Word of Jesus Christ.

Build your house on the Word of Jesus Christ. (Repeat)

And the blessings will come down.

Oh! The blessings come down as the prayers go up.

The blessings come down as the prayers go up. (Repeat)

So build your house on the Word of Jesus Christ.

“GOD GAVE ME MY FAMILY” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “O, Why Do You Wait, Dear Brother?”)

O, how I love my dear daddy!
I know God gave him to me.
And God wants me to obey him,
And I know that He loves me!

(CHORUS)

O, how I love my dear mother!
I know God gave her to me.

And God wants me to obey her,
And I know that she loves me!

(CHORUS)

O, how I love my dear brother [or sister]
I know God him [her] to me.
And I want to always watch over him [her],
For I know that he [she] loves me.

CHORUS:

I love, I love, I love my family, don't you?
I love, I love, I love my family, don't you?

“THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT”

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See “[Kids Prep](#)” CD)

Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John—these are the Gospels.
Acts of the apostles, Paul’s letters to the disciples:

Romans, First and Second Corinthians, Galatians, and Ephesians,
Philippians, Colossians, First and Second Thessalonians;
First and Second Timothy,
Titus and Philemon.

Also, Hebrews, James, First and Second Peter,
First, and Second and Third John,
Jude, and Revelation.

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

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New Testament 1
Part 1: Early Life of Christ

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Matthew 1:1-17

MEMORY WORK:

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SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

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- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- "Matthew Chapter Summary" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- "Who Is Jesus?" box. Decorate a medium-sized box (such as a #10 envelope box), and fill it with objects that relate to some of the names of Jesus, such as a crown, a rock, an artificial rose, a picture of a shepherd or a shepherd's staff, a small stuffed lamb, an artificial loaf of bread, a battery-operated lamp or flashlight.
- See Sunday morning's lesson.



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

My family is important to me and to God. I want to choose right actions and right words so that others will think only good things about me and my family when they hear my name.


INTRODUCTION:

Review Sunday's lesson (see [N.T. 1 Review Questions](#) for example questions). Remind them that Jesus was a special little boy with a special name

[N.T. 1 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under "N.T. 1 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. The angel that appeared to Joseph told him that Mary's baby was to be named "Jesus" because He would "save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:22b). Jesus means "savior." Jesus is also called Christ, which means "anointed one."
2. Tell them that many people in the Bible had names that had special meanings. Using a book of baby names, talk with the children about the meanings of their names. Remind them that they are very special to God and very special to their parents; their parents chose their names very carefully.



NOTE: It was important to the Jews to know their family histories—to know who their ancestors or relatives were. They took a great deal of pride in trying to trace their family trees back to one of the 12 sons of Jacob (the 12 tribes of Israel). When Matthew and Luke wrote their Gospel accounts, they each included a family tree for Jesus, to prove to the Jews that Jesus was the Savior that God had promised hundreds of years before. Matthew gives the family tree for Jesus' earthly father, Joseph (i.e., His father as far as the Law was concerned). Luke gives the family tree for Jesus' mother, Mary.

3. Have a "family tree" drawn on construction paper and help them fill in at least their parents' and grandparents' names. [Teachers, be aware that some adopted children are sensitive to who "belongs" in their family tree.]

OLDER CHILDREN:

1. Remind the children that Jesus was given special names before He was born: Jesus (Matthew 1:22b), which means "Savior," and Immanuel (Matthew 1:23) which means "God with us." In Hebrew, Jesus was "Yeshua"—the same as "Joshua" in the Old Testament.
2. Even though our family names are important, we must remember the most important name we can wear is Christian. When we become a Christian we become part of God's family. To truly wear that name, we must do what the Bible tells us. Our actions determine how well we wear that name.
3. Jesus is identified by many names/titles in the New Testament, including:
 - The Great Shepherd
 - The Great Physician
 - The Bread of Life
 - The King of Kings

- King of the Jews
- The Lord
- The Lamb of God
- Master
- The Messiah
- Prince of Peace
- Rabbi
- The Rock
- The Savior,
- Son of God
- Son of Man
- Son of David
- The Truth
- The Word
- The Light of the World



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the articles “[The Historical Christ—Fact or Fiction?](#)” by Kyle Butt, “[Did Matthew Miscalculate in His Genealogy of Christ?](#)” by Eric Lyons, and “[The Genealogies of Matthew and Luke](#)” by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for responses to allegations about the Bible that are related to the genealogies of Matthew and Luke.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Alphabet Word Cards—Use alphabet cards to let the children spell out “I am the bread of life” or other words/phrases describing Jesus.
- “[Names of Jesus](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Using “The Names of Jesus Worksheet” (provided in activity sheets), make a game for at least two teams of students. Give each team index cards—half with names of Jesus and half with the Scriptures where those names can be found. Set a kitchen timer for 5 minutes and let the children race to see which team can match the Scriptures with the names quicker.

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