

# GROWTH GROUPS

September 23, 2012

Matthew 1:1-17

## **Conversation Starter –**

*This morning begins a study of the gospel of Matthew as we are introduced to Jesus by way of a genealogy. Spend some time sharing where you are in your relationship with Jesus..... do you feel like you are still being introduced to Jesus or have you known Jesus for much of your life? Are you certain about faith in Christ or are you still searching for what is true? Etc....*

## **Understanding –**

“Gospel” is a literary genre unto itself. Gospel literature presents historical truth in such a way as to make a point. Therefore, the writer will include and exclude information based on the point he is trying to make. Likewise, the writer will emphasize and deemphasize certain information for the same reason. We see this strategy employed by Matthew from the very beginning as he includes, emphasizes, and arranges the names of certain people to introduce Jesus to his audience.

1. Not only does Matthew include a list of men in the genealogy, he also includes references to certain women. Tamar (Genesis 38), Rahab (Joshua 2), Ruth (Book of Ruth), and Uriah’s wife (2 Samuel 11). Spend some time reading about one or more of these women and then talk about why it is significant that Matthew included them in a genealogy of Jesus? How do these women uniquely introduce Jesus to us so that we might exalt him as King of heaven and earth?
2. How is Jesus typically introduced to our culture? Is he primarily understood as “King” and “Lord”? If not, who are we told that he is and how does that influence the way we relate to him?
3. What prevents you from placing yourself in full service to King Jesus? How can other members of the group help you with this during this study?

First Presbyterian Church of Maumee

<http://fpcmaumee.org> Email [staff@fpcmaumee.org](mailto:staff@fpcmaumee.org)

200 East Broadway, Maumee, Ohio 43537

Phone 419-893-0223 Fax 419-893-0327