

Small Group Questions

December 9, 2018

Series: This Is Us

Message: "Twisted Family Tree"



This series will take us through the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas. It will also track with our effort we have come to know as "Project Share." During this time of the year, we intentionally seek to serve and bless our community, and part of the world, with acts of compassion. We define compassion as: showing God's love in practical ways. The first three weeks of the series will track with a man in the book of Acts named Joseph, but nicknamed Barnabas (Son of Encouragement) because of the way he lived out his faith. His story enables us to understand the heart and motivation behind our efforts to show compassion.

The second part of the series will look at Christmas passages that show the heart of God toward us. Our compassion efforts are a response to what we have received from God already. Each week of the series there will be a specific way we can get involved in showing God's love to someone in our community or a child in need in a distant land.

You may want to think of ways your group can get involved together in one or more of the efforts. Serving together is a great way to build community with each other. Thank you for what you do to invest in the lives of others!

(Questions to get everyone to participate)

1. What do you know about your genealogy? What would you like to discover about it?
2. If you could design a coat of arms for your family, what animal would you choose? Why? Any other symbols you would choose to add?

(Questions based on the primary text)

Read Matthew 1:1-17.

3. What titles does Matthew assign Jesus in :1 and :16? What do you make of each title?
4. How many people do you recognize on the list of Jesus' genealogy? What do you know about them?
5. What do you make of the inclusion of a number of women when that was not the Jewish custom at the time?
6. What do you think is Matthew's point in going all the way back to Abraham in the genealogy? (see Genesis 12:1-3)
7. If you were to create a "spiritual genealogy" (i.e. people who influenced you toward Jesus) who would be included in that list?
8. In what ways can you live out the principles of God's new kind of community: Everybody's welcome, Nobody's perfect and Anything is possible?