

# THE FAMILY HISTORY OF OUR LORD

**Jesus** had a family history. He had grandparents, and great-grandparents, and great-great grandparents. These people are the family who lived before Jesus did.

The family history of Jesus begins with Abraham, and includes King David. Some of the other ancestors are Jesse, Solomon, and Eleazar. It ends with Jacob, whose son was Joseph.

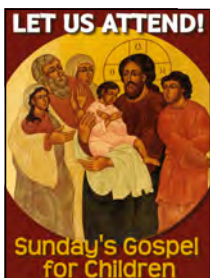
Joseph is the man whom God chose to take care of Mary and Jesus. Joseph was told in a dream that Mary's son was born of the Holy Spirit. Joseph was told that the name of the child would be Jesus, which means "savior," because Jesus would save us from our sins.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What are the names of your grandparents?
2. Today's gospel mentions some names of people who were in Jesus' family. Can you remember one name?
3. Did Jesus have any ancestors who were kings?
4. It is important to know that Jesus came from the family of King David, even though King David lived long before Jesus.
5. The man in the icon is St. Joseph.



Icon courtesy of Iconographics ([www.theologic.com](http://www.theologic.com))



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St. Joseph, Jesus' earthly father

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The **earthly family** of our Lord Jesus Christ is listed in this part of God’s Word. From our Lord all the way back to Abraham, His grandparents, great-grandparents, and great-great-grandparents are listed. Our Lord Jesus had many family members who lived on this earth before He did.

Some of Jesus’ relatives were Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Boaz, Jesse, King David, and Solomon are also in Christ’s earthly family. Hezekiah, Josiah, and Jacob, the father of Joseph, are his family too.

Joseph was special because God chose him to take care of Mary and Jesus. An angel told Joseph in a dream that Mary would have a baby that was the Son of God. The angel told Joseph to call the baby Jesus. “Jesus” means “Savior”.

Joseph obeyed the angel. He took care of Mary. He named the baby Jesus. Jesus is God’s Son, and He also had a human family.

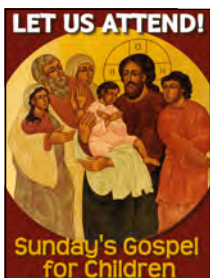
St. Joseph, Jesus’ earthly father



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## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What are the names of your grandparents?
2. Do you know the names of your great-grandparents?
3. The word that means your family who lived before you is “ancestors.”
4. We read names of some of Jesus’ ancestors. Can you name one?
5. Did Jesus have any ancestors who were kings?
6. The Israelites knew that the Savior would be born from the family of a king. The gospel tells us that Jesus was from the family of King David.



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# THE ANCESTORS OF OUR LORD

**The book of the genealogy** of Jesus. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Mat-

than, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born who is called Christ.

So all generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the

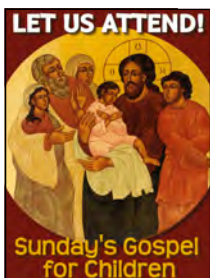


Image courtesy of Teaching Pics

Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His name shall be called Emmanuel (which means, God with us)." When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His name Jesus.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What is a genealogy? How does the dictionary define it?
2. This Gospel reading lists Christ's genealogy. Did you recognize any of His ancestors? Which ones?
3. Why do you think St. Matthew recorded Christ's genealogy?
4. Who are some of your ancestors? How did they live? Are you following in their footsteps?
5. Your patron saint is one of your spiritual ancestors. How did he or she live? Are you following in his or her footsteps?



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# THE GENEALOGY OF OUR LORD

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## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What is a genealogy?
2. Who is in your family's genealogy? What do you know about these people? What does that tell you about yourself?
3. Who was Abraham? If you need help remembering who Abraham was, read Genesis 17. What do we learn about Jesus if he is a descendant of Abraham?
4. What kind of genealogy do we keep and remember in church? Can you find a time in our services where we actually say part of our community's genealogy?
5. Why do you think we keep a genealogy of our community?
6. What does the genealogy tell you about who you are or who you can become?

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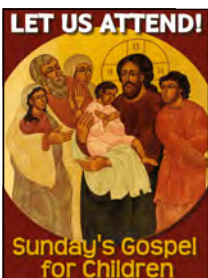
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3. Who was Abraham? If you need help remembering who Abraham was, read Genesis 17. What do we learn about Jesus if he is a descendant of Abraham?
4. Who are our fathers and mothers in our church family? How do you know this? Where do you hear this being said?
5. Why do you think we keep a genealogy of sorts in our church? What does this genealogy tell us about ourselves as a community?
6. What does this genealogy tell you about yourself?
7. What can you do this week to be a descendant of the saints?



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