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# A BIGGER STORY :

## MATTHEW 1:1-17

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Names, names, names...

Fulfilment

Promises, promises:

- Abraham (Genesis 22:15-18)
- David (2 Samuel 7:11-16)

The Good -> Outsiders find faith, insiders who protect

God's people living out God's ways

Unexpected additions

- Rahab – Joshua 2:9-13
- Ruth – Ruth 1:16-17

Righteous men take risks

- Boaz
- Joseph

## The Bad -> manipulation and sin – but God weaves redemption

The failures of the Patriarchs:

Manipulation

- Abraham, Jacob
- Judah and Tamar – Genesis 38

Sin

- David and 'the wife of Uriah the Hittite' – 2 Samuel 11

Weaving redemption out of tragedy.

## The Unknown -> God takes his time to work redemption

Exile

Still waiting

“when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son”

A new beginning, a new people

“She will bear a son and you will call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

## Questions for Personal Reflection and Growth Groups

Reread the promises to Abraham and David in Genesis 22:15-18 and 2 Samuel 7:11-16

What do you think a kingdom holding to God's ways would look like?

Look up some of the names in the genealogy and read some of the stories where they trusted God. Some ideas are:

- 1 Samuel 17 (David and Goliath)
- 2 Chronicles 20 Jehoshaphat trusts and sees God fighting his battles
- 2 Kings 18-19 Hezekiah trusts God
- Ruth – read the story of Ruth and Boaz, and see how Boaz treats Ruth

Then look at the dark stories

- Genesis 38

How does reading this story as one that is mentioned in Jesus' genealogy make you feel? What good comes out of this?

- 2 Samuel 11

If David can do this, what is the sin you can fall into if you don't guard your heart?

How do you feel about a God who uses such people in his plans and purposes?

Now look at the list of unknown names (Matthew 1:12-16). Think of their situation of exile – how is that similar and different to ours today?

How do you feel knowing that your story is part of the same story of redemption that God is weaving through history, from Abraham to Christ's first coming, to the return of Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25

Try to imagine how Mary and Joseph must each have reacted to the news of Mary's pregnancy initially. What did their submission to God cost them?

Immanuel means 'God is with us'

Jesus means 'God saves'

Use those words and concepts to praise God for all that he has done to bring salvation to us in Jesus.