

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



There's Room for Every Story

November 26 & 27, 2022

No matter what's happening in your life today, know that the thread of your life has been woven into the story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Yes, the thread of your life might seem dull or frayed today. But know that the golden thread of God's love and grace is woven into you, into the tapestry of your life in a way that redeems it all, making it into something beautiful.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: MATTHEW 1:1-17

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Why in the world does Matthew start the story of Jesus, the Messiah, with a genealogy? Well, believe it or not, to Matthew's Jewish audience a genealogy was anything but boring. A genealogy determined the property you owned, the possessions you inherited, your rank within your family and tribe and even your political power if you were entitled to any. And genealogies back then did what genealogies do today – they tie the tread of our lives into the larger tapestry of our family history.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Re-read Matthew 1:1-17. Which names do you recognize from Jesus' genealogy? What do you know about them?
- Like Jesus, we all have some stellar fruit and some rotten apples on our family tree. Share stories about some of the most positively or negatively notorious members of your family tree.
- Nobody is completely a good thread or a bad thread in the tapestry God is weaving. We are all both saint and sinner. How has this been true in your life or your family?
- Faith dares us to believe that God takes the tangled mess of our lives and does something beautiful with it, even if we can't see it in the moment. Share a story about how you have seen God bring good out of a bad situation. Are you currently facing a situation where you are struggling to see the good? Share about that, too, and pray with one another for the faith to believe that God is working in all situations.
- Our faith and our values will be passed along as an inheritance to the generations that follow us. What are you passing along? How are you passing it on?

CHALLENGE: Write a letter to someone who will be a part of your family tapestry in 150 years. Address it to "Dear Future Generations, here's why my faith matters to me." And go from there.