

# FAMILY MATTERS — WOMEN IN CHRIST'S GENEALOGY

Bible Study • Study Guide

**Opening prayer:** Almighty God, thank You for calling each of us to be your precious daughters and giving us the gift of faith. Please bless our time in Your Word as we learn from the Bible and apply these lessons to our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Have you ever felt unsure of how God could use you to point others to Him? Maybe you are new in your faith and do not feel good enough, or you keep remembering your past sins and think you are not holy enough to be a vessel for God's mission.

The Gospel of Matthew reminds us of some women from the Old Testament. Matthew started his recording of Jesus' life by writing a genealogy. The genealogies (lists of people in the generations leading up to Jesus) in Scripture are easy to just skim over because there are so many unrecognizable names (plus some that are just plain difficult to say out loud). It was traditional for these genealogies to list only men. However, Matthew intentionally included five women in his list.

Read Matthew 1:1–17.

**Write the names of the women in the verses listed below and record how they are described.**

**verse 3:**

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**verse 5:**

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**verse 5:**

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**verse 6:**

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**verse 16:**

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What was so great about these women that Matthew included them? Why were they so holy and magnificent to be included in the introduction to Matthew's description of the birth of our Savior? Take a look at their stories in the Old Testament to learn more about them.

**Write down what surprises you about each woman and summarize her reputation.**

**Genesis 38:12–17, 24**

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**Joshua 2:1–7**

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**Ruth 1:1–6, 22**

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**2 Samuel 11:2–5, 26–27**

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**Matthew 1:18–19**

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So, why were these women amazing enough to be recorded by Matthew? The answer is: they weren't! On their own they looked pretty bad. No one was looking up to them as role models. Three of the five had, for some amount of time, shame and troubles due to seemingly ill-timed pregnancies. These five women, like all of us, had sinned and made mistakes that affected their relationships and reputation with others.

**Read the following verses and write down how God turned around these women's lives and used them for His plan.**

### **Genesis 38:25–27**

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### **Joshua 6:17, 25**

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### **Ruth 4:13–22**

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### **1 Kings 2:19**

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### **Matthew 1:20–25**

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God saw these down-trodden women as His beautiful daughters and used them in His plan to bring salvation for all people through the birth of Jesus. The amazing part about these women is that they had life-altering faith in the one true God. He enabled them to be a blessing to others despite the hardships they had experienced and the rotten labels and sins with which others associated them.

**What is your reputation? How can God use you because of or despite your past mistakes?**

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Even when we cannot see His plan, God has a way to use you and your gifts to benefit your church and to further His mission of sharing the Gospel with others. No matter what we have experienced, by God's grace we are empowered to live lives that point others to Him. Our sins are no longer a death sentence because Jesus has paid the price for us. We can live each day in celebration and excitement as we, with the power of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, grow in faith and share the great news of our Savior (with an amazing genealogy!) with others we know!

**Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus to redeem us, regardless of the mistakes we have made and sins we have committed. We praise You for empowering us, through the Holy Spirit, to show Your love to others in our day-to-day lives, even when we are not perfect! Bless us with Your peace and comfort as we rest in the assurance that we are Your daughters and will live with You eternally. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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