

Catechism Lesson for Adults and Teens
Sunday before Nativity
The Genealogy of Jesus / The Birth of Jesus Christ

Read the Gospel Passage. Matthew 1:1-25

Contextual Background:

-Jesus Christ is both divine and man. His earthly lineage is given to us in Matthew to show the fulfillment of God's promise of the Incarnation. This lineage was filled with imperfect people that God still worked through.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who are the significant people in your spiritual upbringing? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS)
 - a. Parents
 - b. Grandparents
 - c. Great grandparents
 - d. Siblings
 - e. Extended family
 - f. Teachers
 - g. Clergy
 - h. Other Answers?

2. If an angel appeared to you tonight and told you that your life would be changed, that you'd have to move from where you were living, and take care of a child on behalf of God, how might you feel? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS)
 - a. Privileged
 - b. Afraid
 - c. Disbelief/Shock
 - d. Unprepared
 - e. Other answers?

3. In the first part of Matthew, we get the entire family tree of Jesus. (DISCUSSION)
 - a. What are some fond memories you have of your grandparents or great-grandparents?

 - b. What do you know or would you like to know about your genealogy?

 - c. If you could design a coat of arms or family insignia/symbol, what symbols would you choose?

4. When have you felt God send you an angel or you felt your guardian angel protecting you? (DISCUSSION)
5. The Theotokos said “yes” or Amen to God’s plan for her to bare the Savior, the Son of God, Jesus. (DISCUSSION)
 - a. What was the most difficult thing you said “yes” to?
 - b. Was there ever something very difficult God asked you to do?
6. Josef at first didn’t know God’s will in the Theotokos being pregnant, and intended on protecting her from shame by quietly divorcing her. (DISCUSSION)
 - a. What’s your relationship to the word/concept of shame?
 - b. When have you been in a position to help someone who might be shamed or become an outcast?
7. Josef and the Theotokos were both obedient to God in this journey. Obedience means trust/compliance in an authority or command. (DISCUSSION)
 - a. Why might there be some negative associations with this word? What are the positives of the concept of “obedience”.
 - b. Who are some authorities you trust or would have obedience towards?