

Small Group Questions: The Gift that Restores Joy

Series: Christmas At Seacoast

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Read

Matthew 1:1-16; Matthew 4:18-22; Matthew 6:9-13

Reflect

Sometimes, when we look back, we cringe over the painful memories and hurts that we've experienced. But, when we look back through the lens of what God has done for us, we can be filled with gratitude and see his story of goodness, faithfulness, and mercy. And as we look at the genealogy of Jesus, hope for ourselves, our stories, and our families can be restored. A Messiah who was promised and prophesied about showed up through a messy, seemingly irredeemable family. God looked into our world as the author and saw us destroying ourselves, so he wrote himself into the story as Jesus to find us amidst the messy to restore our joy and hope. Despite the madness, God showed up in the humblest of forms and broke the cycle of chaos.

Pastor Adam Martin encourages us with the good news of Jesus' birth and reviews the messiness from which he came.

FROM THIS GENEALOGY WE LEARN THAT...

1. Jesus is who he claims to be

- a. As you enter into the Christmas season, what are some doubts you may be experiencing?
 - i. What would it look like to doubt those doubts?
- b. In times of uncertainty, doubt, and pain, do you believe Jesus is who he claims to be?
 - i. Talk about a time when you experienced both doubt and hope through that time of uncertainty, doubt, and pain.

2. Jesus knows what it's like to have a crazy family

- a. If you want to give yourself a gift this Christmas, forgive somebody. Who do you need to forgive?
- b. What hurt have you been carrying around and denying?
 - i. How can your small group encourage you through processing this hurt?
- c. Where else in the Bible does Jesus show up in a messy situation to restore hope and joy?

3. Jesus knows what it takes for things to change

- a. Jesus' arrival marked a time when things began to change—what cycle would you like to break for your family?
 - i. If you had to guess, what ripple effect(s) do you think that cycle-breaking change would have on future generations?

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?