

CHRISTMAS STORIES | SURPRISING STORIES FROM A FAMILY TREE

MATTHEW 1:1-16

Have you ever got out that bin from the attic? The one that's been housing your Christmas lights for the last several months (or years). You make that trek up the ladder or stairs, or maybe into the basement, just to find a tangled mess. Often you just want to throw them out and start over. Sometimes human relationships resemble that ball of lights more than the pretty, multicolored, neat rows that follow your roof line. This is certainly true of one of the most significant family trees in all human history. There are two family trees that are significantly greater than any other. We find them in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. They are Jesus' family trees, presumably from Joseph and Mary's families. We often skip over these genealogies, but the Holy Spirit led the writers of the gospels to include them in the inspired Word of God. Today we will look at Matthew's account of Jesus' family tree. What does God want to teach us through this genealogy?

1. God's _____ and _____ is on display as we scan through the names.
2. The genealogy leads us to a singular _____ on _____.
3. This family tree provides _____ for our _____ and the _____ of our families.