



Your Kingdom Come
December 15 | Group Guide

Open with prayer and Scripture (5 minutes).

Take a few moments to begin your group time together with this prayer:

*Show us your unfailing love, O God, our Savior,
and grant us your salvation.
Listen to what the Lord our God says:
He promises peace to his people,
who are his beloved saints.
The Lord will indeed give what is good.
Righteousness goes before him
and prepares the way for his steps.
May the Lord make his holy face to shine upon us in this time of Advent.
May we see God's face and so know peace. Amen.
—based on Psalm 85:7-13, NIV*

Pray also for your group time together. Then, read Matthew 1:12-17.

12 After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, 13 Zerubbabel the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, 14 Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Elihud, 15 Elihud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, 16 and Jacob the father of

Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

17 Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

Introduction and questions about Matthew 1:12-17 (15 minutes)

In the book of Matthew, Jesus not only shows us what the kingdom of heaven is like, he teaches us to pray: "Your kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven." We want the love of heaven to come to earth, the wisdom of heaven to come to earth, the joy of heaven to come to earth, the abundance of heaven to earth, the king of heaven to come to earth!

In this series, we hope to not only learn more about Jesus, but learn to become more and more like Jesus, seeing his Kingdom come in our lives, our city, and our community.

Questions about the Scripture:

- What was something new from the sermon you learned? What was something that resonated or challenged you? What do you have questions about?
- In his sermon, Dan talked about how in the 400-year period between the end of Malachi and the beginning of Matthew there developed (1) Global language; (2) Global peace; (3) Global travel; (4) Bible translation available; and (4) Jews and synagogues throughout the world. How did these realities set the stage for the coming of Christ?

Break into smaller groups for sermon discussion (25 minutes).

In groups of 3-4, reflect on the following questions:

- Our text this week in Matthew 1:12-17 covers a time period we know little about, with people that we know little or nothing about. How does knowing that Jesus' genealogy includes both prominent figures and ordinary or obscure ones shape how you view your own story and worth in God's eyes?

- In what ways have you seen God working in your family history or personal story, even in moments that seemed like exile or failure?
- Are there any places where you feel “forgotten” or “exiled,” and how might God be using these times to work out his greater purpose?
- Read Galatians 4:4-5. How do these verses provide assurance that God is providentially working through history to bring about his good purposes? Where in your life are you needing that assurance today?
- How do you respond when God’s promises or plans seem delayed or unclear? Are there parts of your life where you need to relinquish control and trust God's timing and sovereignty more deeply?

Conclude with prayer requests and then the following prayer to end the night (5 minutes).

Share prayer requests and pray for one another. Then, pray the following prayer:

*O God of the exiles and the lost,
you promise restoration and wholeness
through the power of Jesus Christ.
Give us faith to live joyfully,
sustained by your promises
as we eagerly await the day when they will be fulfilled
for all the world to see,
through the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*