

## Message Discussion Guide

**Date: December 16-17, 2023**

**Title: Home For Christmas - Week 2**

### Connect with Each Other:

#### Icebreakers

- Wow it is just about Christmas! How many of you are done shopping?
- What is your favorite Christmas tradition?
- Do you have a favorite Hallmark Christmas movie?

#### Pray Together

- Heavenly Father, we thank you for all you do. We are reminded this week that you have a plan and there is a purpose in all you do. The ancestry of Jesus that we heard this week reminds us that you will use people with all of their strengths and despite all of their faults in carrying out your plan. That reminder also helps us to realize that despite our own faults, you have a plan and purpose for our life. Today we can make choices that will impact future generations. Please help us and guide us to make decisions that honor and glorify you. We ask all this in the name of your son, Jesus. Amen.

### Connect with God:

**Sticky statement:** God is a planner. Family trees are powerful. Each person has a purpose.

**Message Summary:** Have you ever asked yourself, “what is the point of my life?” Have you ever experienced a dark period or time of despair? We must remember:

1. God is a planner. He holds everything together. He does things based on a specific time using specific people.
2. Family Trees are powerful. We have to understand & value our lineage. We must realize our history will affect our descendants. Our history can be changed!!! Our decisions today affect tomorrow’s generation.
3. Each person has a purpose that God has created them to fulfill. How will we use our lives to reach our purpose? Through our purpose we find out the point of why we were created.

## **Key Bible Verses**

### **Matthew 1:1-17** The Ancestors of Jesus the Messiah

**1** This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David and of Abraham: **2** Abraham was the father of Isaac. Isaac was the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers. **3** Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah (whose mother was Tamar). Perez was the father of Hezron. Hezron was the father of Ram. **4** Ram was the father of Amminadab. Amminadab was the father of Nahshon. Nahshon was the father of Salmon. **5** Salmon was the father of Boaz (whose mother was Rahab). Boaz was the father of Obed (whose mother was Ruth). Obed was the father of Jesse. **6** Jesse was the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon (whose mother was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah). **7** Solomon was the father of Rehoboam. Rehoboam was the father of Abijah. Abijah was the father of Asa. **8** Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat was the father of Jehoram. Jehoram was the father of Uzziah. **9** Uzziah was the father of Jotham. Jotham was the father of Ahaz. Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah. **10** Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh. Manasseh was the father of Amon. Amon was the father of Josiah. **11** Josiah was the father of Jehoiachin and his brothers (born at the time of the exile to Babylon). **12** After the Babylonian exile: Jehoiachin was the father of Shealtiel. Shealtiel was the father of Zerubbabel. **13** Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud. Abiud was the father of Eliakim. Eliakim was the father of Azor. **14** Azor was the father of Zadok. Zadok was the father of Akim. Akim was the father of Eliud. **15** Eliud was the father of Eleazar. Eleazar was the father of Matthan. Matthan was the father of Jacob. **16** Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Mary gave birth to Jesus, who is called the Messiah. **17** All those listed above include fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the Babylonian exile, and fourteen from the Babylonian exile to the Messiah.

**Psalms 37:23** The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.

**Luke 4:16, 22** When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures.... Everyone spoke well of him and was amazed by the gracious words that came from his lips. "How can this be?" they asked. "Isn't this Joseph's son?"

**Numbers 14:18** 'The LORD is slow to anger and filled with unfailing love, forgiving every kind of sin and rebellion. But he does not excuse the guilty. He lays the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations.'

**Proverbs 16:4** The LORD has made everything for his own purposes, even the wicked for a day of disaster.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What are some of the benefits and rewards of planning?
2. What does the ancestry of Jesus tell us about God's planning?
3. How many generations of your family tree can you identify?
4. What's the point in identifying your purpose and following God's plan?
5. What steps can you take in identifying God's plan for your life?
6. What can you do now, to plan for a new year of purpose?
7. What other insights did you get from the message this week?

**WE GET LOTS OF INVITES THIS TIME OF YEAR,  
BUT THE GREATEST INVITATION WAS JESUS  
INVITING US INTO A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.**

**AS A BELIEVER, NOW IS A GREAT TIME FOR YOU  
TO INVITE SOMEONE TO CHURCH SO THEY CAN  
GET TO KNOW HIM.**



**... WE ARE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST, AS THOUGH  
GOD IS PLEADING THROUGH US: "PLEASE, WON'T  
YOU COME BACK AND BE GOD'S FRIEND?"**

**- 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20 (FBV)**