

Sermon Based Small Group Guide for December 4, 2022 sermon:
"A few knots in the family tree"

Warm up:

1. Everyone's family has some "interesting" people in it. Some might be surprised at the heroic/interesting/famous person that you are related to...or maybe at the embarrassing person that is a part of your family tree. Keeping it light and fun, who is the most interesting person in your family and why?
2. We usually tend to skip the genealogy portions of the Bible because they are complicated, difficult to pronounce, and (let's face it) kind of boring to us. Was there anything that surprised or stood out to you about Jesus' family tree?

Digging deeper: (20-30 minutes)

1. ASK: How is our family both the source of some of the greatest joy and of the bitterest pain in our lives?

It is easy to point at the people in our families who have failed and hurt us. We can clearly identify their flaws, but none of us are perfect. The best way to change the family tree is to let God work on ME. Read the following passages and discuss what they say about God's intention for the family, the role of the parents, and what the core value of love looks like in our relationships:

Deuteronomy 6:4-8, Psalm 127:3-5, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

2. ASK: Many people today believe that the Bible teaches the devaluing and oppression of women. Do you believe this or not? Why?

Matthew's genealogy included 5 women (when you include Mary, the mother of Jesus). What did you learn about them and how did God use their redeemed circumstance to add beauty and strength to the family tree that Jesus came from?

- Tamar (Genesis 38)
- Rahab (Joshua 2)
- Ruth
- Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11)

- 3.) ASK: Are you, in any way, a "different" person at Christmas? If so, how?

There is something special about the Christmas season and we tend to be more social, more generous, and even more forgiving. If there is someone that wants an improved relationship with you, but you are hesitant, how does this passage of Scripture challenge your resistant attitude? Romans 12:19-21

Apply it: (10 minutes)

Share what you are both excited about and struggling with as Christmas approaches. How can you support and care for each other? Pray for each other's expressed needs.