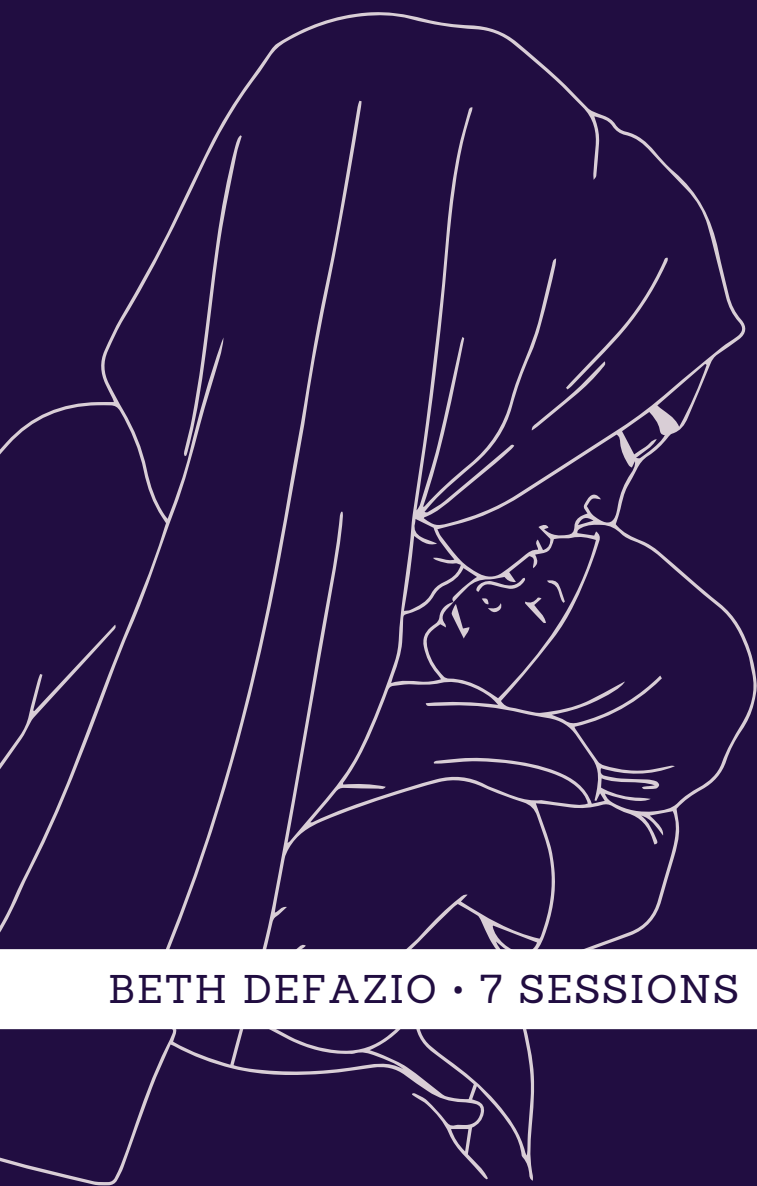


Mothers of the Messiah

THE WOMEN IN JESUS' GENEALOGY



BETH DEFAZIO • 7 SESSIONS

**NEXT
LEVEL** 
ONLINE
OZARK CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Mothers of the Messiah

A NextLevel Series on the Women in Jesus' Genealogy

Session 1: LESSONS on LINEAGE. An introduction to Matthew chapter one.

With Beth DeFazio

STUDY...

Three reasons Matthew begins with Jesus' family tree:

- To show that Jesus is a part of _____.

- To show that Jesus is a part of _____.
 - *The Greek:* The book of _____ of Jesus Christ.
 - The significance of 14 generations x 3 chapters of genealogy = Jesus is the _____.
 - The three sections/eras in the genealogy – the covenant, the kingship, and the exile – tell the story of God. But they also each come with a promise of a _____.

- To show that Jesus has given us a _____.
 - Jesus' genealogy is unique because it includes _____.
 - These women are unique because...

DISCUSS...

1. Share a fun fact from your own family tree or heritage.
2. Review the names in Jesus' genealogy. Which names or stories stand out to you and why?
3. Reviewing your study notes from "World History" and/or "God's History," what was something you learned today for the first time? How does this impact your understanding of the entire story of God?
4. Of the five women in Jesus' lineage, who do you recognize and what do you know about them?
5. Pray for insight and discernment as we study these women's stories and work to apply them appropriately to our own.

Mothers of the Messiah

A NextLevel Series on the Women in Jesus' Genealogy

Session 2: TAMAR. Where some see revenge, God sees righteousness.

With Beth DeFazio

STUDY...

- While the story of Joseph fills fourteen chapters in Genesis, it's his brother, _____, who is in the line of Christ.
- Genesis 38 reveals that Judah left his family's _____ and their _____.
- Judah acquires our first "Mother," _____, as a wife for his son(s).
 - Er...
 - Onan...
 - Shelah...
- Judah, condemns Tamar to a life of _____, so Tamar takes on the role of a _____ to deceive Judah.
 - She takes his _____ and _____ as currency...
 - When Tamar reveals her pregnancy, first Judah calls for her _____, but then he calls her _____.

DISCUSS...

1. Read Genesis 50.18-21. Recall at least three moments in Joseph's story where we see his brothers' intentions redeemed by God's plan.
2. Do you have a "God intended it for good," moment in your own story? If you feel comfortable, please share.
3. Discuss the difference between vengeance and vindication first in general terms, then specifically as these motives may apply to Tamar.
4. Name a few steps you can take to ensure that you do not fall over the line into the camp of vengeance when wronged by others.
5. Spend some time praying together. Pray for the ability to forgive your wrongdoers, heal from any hurt that has been caused by those who should have loved and led well, and to seek forgiveness from any whom you may have caused harm.

Mothers of the Messiah

A NextLevel Series on the Women in Jesus' Genealogy

Session 3: RAHAB. Where some see a harlot, God sees a hero.

With Beth DeFazio

STUDY...

- ☐ Rahab's occupation...
- ☐ Rahab's home...
- ☐ Rahab's act...
- ☐ Rahab's proclamation...
 - Longest consecutive statement made by any _____ in the Bible.
 - Follows a _____ structure.
 - Reveals two kinds of fear at work in Jericho – her countrymen were _____, but Rahab was in _____.
- ☐ Rahab's bargain...
- ☐ Rahab's rescue...
 - 86 words are devoted to _____ rescue, while 102 are used to describe the destruction of _____.
 - This is a story of _____, not _____.
 - The Hebrew word *Tikvah* is the word for _____ and for _____.

DISCUSS...

1. Share a story of an unexpected hero/heroine that you have either heard or experienced.
2. Discuss the difficulty, yet the necessity, of “standing up even if you’re standing alone.”
3. The citizens of Jericho put their faith in walls. Rahab put her faith in God. Share a time you misplaced your faith. What did you trust, how did that go, and what did you learn?
4. Reflect on the miracles of God that left Jericho terrified. Now reflect on the beauty of *Tikvah*. How can you lean into living in awe rather than living afraid?
5. Offer prayers asking for boldness. Confess an area of your life that you have not surrendered to the power and will of God and ask Him to give you faith like Rahab – to believe that the God who demolished the walls of Jericho will defeat your enemy too.

Mothers of the Messiah

A NextLevel Series on the Women in Jesus' Genealogy

Session 4: RUTH. Where some see subdued, God sees sacrificial.

With Beth DeFazio

STUDY...

- The theme of the book of Ruth is the Hebrew word _____.
 - You don't feel *hesed*. You _____ *hesed*.
 - It can mean....

- Chapter One:
 - Ruth is a Moabite...
 - The list of Ruth and Naomi's losses are profound...

- Chapter Two:
 - Ruth's act of covenant kindness...
 - Boaz's act of covenant kindness...
 - The beauty of contrast...

- Chapter Three:
 - Naomi called Boaz a guardian _____.
 - Naomi tells Ruth to ask Boaz to be her _____ for the sake of Ruth.
 - Ruth asks Boaz to be her _____ for the sake of Naomi.

- Chapter Four:
 - The price paid by Boaz...
 - The price paid by Ruth...
 - The price paid by their descendant...

DISCUSS...

1. Share a time when sitting in the gravity of grief led you to experience the glory of God.
2. Reflect on the Hebrew word *hesed* and its various definitions/actions. Describe a time you have experienced *hesed* as either the giver or receiver.
3. While Ruth may be one of the most well-known of the five women in Jesus' lineage, there is always more to learn. Share one or two insights you gleaned from today's study.
4. Define the term "redemption" with a story or analogy. What does it mean to you that you have been bought back by your guardian redeemer?
5. Today calls for prayers of thanksgiving. Thank Jesus for his covenant kindness to you, and ask for the same spirit of sacrificial love for others that Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz had for one another.

If you would like to dive deeper into Ruth's story, check out another NextLevel Online series called

[Expect the Unexpected: The Book of Ruth.](#)

Mothers of the Messiah

A NextLevel Series on the Women in Jesus' Lineage

Session 5: BATHSHEBA. Where some see ravished, God sees redeemed.

With Beth DeFazio

STUDY...

☐ Crave...

- When fighting men were off to war, David was at _____.
- David let his glimpse become a _____.

☐ Conceal...

- David brings _____ home to sleep with his wife, _____.
- Uriah's character _____ is stronger than David's character _____.

☐ Cover Up...

- David sends Uriah to the front lines to be _____.
- David has wept over the death of his _____, but is relieved at the loss of his own _____.

☐ Culpability...

- Look at the _____. David's are active. Bathsheba's are passive.
- When the King calls, a subject has two options: say _____ or be _____.
- Nathan rebukes _____ but not _____.

☐ Confession...

- When other kings would have made excuses, David _____.
- His anguish is clear in Psalm 32 & 51...

☐ Concluding Application...

- David...
- Nathan...
- Bathsheba...

DISCUSS...

1. David fell to the snowball effect of sin. Recount a time your sin led to another and another. What effects did that have on you spiritually, emotionally, and relationally?
2. Before today's study what thoughts or feelings did you have about this part of David's story and Bathsheba's role in his moral failure? How have these changed or remained?
3. Read Psalm 32 and 51. Discuss the language that points to David's repentant heart.
4. Share a time when you felt invisible, but God assured you, you were seen. Reflect on Bathsheba's continued role in the kingdom. What does this tell you about God?
5. Read through your notes of application from David, Nathan, and Bathsheba. Pray that all of these lessons will be true in you and in the Church.

Mothers of the Messiah

A NextLevel Series on the Women in Jesus' Lineage

Session 6: MARY. Where some see ordinary, God sees obedient.

With Beth DeFazio

STUDY...

- Matthew 1: Changes in Lineage Language.
 - Joseph...
 - Mary...

- Luke 1: The Announcement to Mary.
 - Mary is called a _____ - a fulfillment of prophecy in Isaiah seven.
 - Mary is also called _____ - a harkening to Noah in Genesis six.
 - Mary does not question the _____ - a contrast from Zechariah in Luke one.

- Matthew 1: The Announcement to Joseph.
 - In divorcing Mary quietly, Joseph shows obedience to the _____ and compassion for _____.
 - Joseph's character reflects that of Christ in John 1.14. Jesus came full of _____ & _____.

- Luke 1: Mary's Song.
 - Mary's mature understanding of who Christ **will be** shows that she has listened well to the story of what God **has already done**.
 - All that was promised to _____ is now being fulfilled in _____.

- Lessons from Mary...
 -
 -
 -

DISCUSS...

1. Share a favorite Christmas tradition you celebrate with your family.
2. What is the most difficult thing you believe God has called you to do (or say, or give up, etc.)? How did you muster the faith and obedience to follow through?
3. Discuss the difficulties both Mary and Joseph faced in carrying and raising the Son of God. How does their obedience inspire you to faithfulness?
4. Read Mary's song in Luke chapter one. What stories from the Old Testament come to mind as you read her inspired lyrics? How about moments from Jesus' ministry?
5. Pray for the steadfast obedience of Mary to follow God's call, brush off others' ridicule, and find joy in serving the King.

Mothers of the Messiah

A NextLevel Series on the Women in Jesus' Lineage

Session 7: CONCLUSION. Three reasons why.

With Beth DeFazio

STUDY...

- Matthew included these five women in order to give all women _____ and respect.
 - + Jesus valued women in his ministry...
 - - But why would Matthew not include other women...
- Matthew included these five women in order to show that Jesus brings _____.
 - + "It is not the _____ who need a doctor, but the _____." Matthew 9.12
 - - But there are plenty of other stories in the genealogy to fulfill this purpose...
- Matthew included Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba in this genealogy so that all would know... Jesus is for everyone. (_____)
 - + In Genesis 22 God promised Abraham he would be the father of ____.
 - + Matthew begins his gospel with all nations in chapter one, and ends with all nations in chapter 28.
 - + Jesus came as the _____ Messiah, but He died as the _____ Messiah.
 - + In Ephesians 3 Paul affirms our adoption into Christ's family.
 - + And Matthew tells us in his genealogy, God intended us to be there all along.

DISCUSS...

1. Share a time when you weren't sure you belonged (maybe in a group, on a team, at work, etc.) Did you find your place? If so, what did it take for you to feel at home?
2. Of the three possible reasons for Matthew including these "Mothers" in his genealogy, which resonates with you the most and why?
3. Discuss the implications of Gentile inclusion – of the Jewish Messiah being the Savior of us all. Have you thought about the weight of this gift in this way before? How are you thinking about it differently now?
4. Read Ephesians chapter three aloud together. Each person choose a word or phrase to reflect on this week. Share what you chose and why it stands out to you.
5. Close in prayer asking God to make His freedom, healing, and restoration known to you in profound and holy ways.

This video was made possible with support from:

