Read The Genealogy in Matthew 1:1-17

1a. Matthew 1:1 gives us a concise description of Jesus' identity? What two names are used to identify Jesus?

1b. Look up the following verses. What are the central promises given to:

- Abraham (Gen 12:1-3)

- David (2 Sam 7:11-16; Psalm 89:3-4; Psalm 132:11-14)

2. Ancient genealogies usually traced lineage through men, yet Matthew includes five women. Write down what you know about each of them. What is striking about the lives of these people? Why would Matthew draw attention to these aspects of Jesus' lineage? (Hunter, p. 12)

- Tamar

- Rahab

- Ruth

- Bathsheba (the wife of Uriah)

- Mary

3. Notice the repetition Matthew uses in the genealogy. He deviates from the pattern in 1:16. What is the significance of the names in Jesus' genealogy and what is Matthew communicating to his readers about Jesus?

4. When he heard that Mary was pregnant, Joseph naturally assumed that she had been unfaithful to him, yet how did he respond? (Mat 1:18-19) How did his actions change after the angel visited him?

5. What is the baby to be named, what does the name mean and why is this name important to the Gospel? (Jesus is the Greek name for the Hebrew name "Joshua")

6. Why do the wise men travel from the east to Jerusalem (2:1-2)? After the wise men informed Herod of Micah 5:2, what insight do they give to Herod about Jesus? What is Herod's response and true motive?

7. Read Exodus 1:15-22 and 2:11-15. Consider in what ways Herod's actions in Matthew 2:13 parallel those of the Pharaoh of Egypt.

8. What expression is repeated in Matthew 2:15, 17-18, and 23? What is Matthew trying to show us about the relationship between Old Testament expectations and the arrival of Jesus?

9. Compare the responses of Herod and the Wise Men to Jesus' birth. How are they similar to the responses that people give today to the Good News that Christ has come into the world?

10. Summarize Matthew Chapters 1-2 in your own words.