



Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for December 6, 2009
Released on Wednesday, December 2, 2009

"Jesus' Family Tree"

Lesson Text: Ruth 4:13-17; Matthew 1:1-6

Background Scripture: Ruth 4:13-17; Matthew 1:1-17

Memory Verse: "...There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David" (Ruth 4:17).

Ruth 4:13-17

13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son.

14 And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel.

15 And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter-in-law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath borne him.

16 And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it.

17 And the women her neighbors gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Matthew 1:1-6

1 The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

2 Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judah and his brethren;

3 And Judah begat Pharez and Zerah of Tamar; and Pharez begat Hezron; and Hezron begat Ram;

4 And Ram begat Amminadab; and Amminadab begat Nahshon; and Nahshon begat Salmon;

5 And Salmon begat Boaz of Rachab; and Boaz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;

6 And Jesse begat David the king.

And David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Uriah.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW

Teach that God, who carefully pre-planned Jesus' human family, knows how to fit us into His plans as well.

TRUTHS TO STRESS

1. Jesus was both God and man.
2. Long before Jesus came, God knew each person who would become a human ancestor of His Son.
3. God knows about everyone in your family, and He knows about you.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS

For Telling the Lesson, find a manger scene and pictures of Ruth, Naomi, and a baby. If you have no chalkboard, make a sign reading "God knew."

For Helping to Remember, provide each child with crayons and a full sheet of white construction paper.

For the lesson activity, make a copy of the Word Search for each student to review keywords from the lesson.

TEACHER'S NOTES

No narrative? Nothing but names? What kind of lesson can this be? What it can be is a wonderful lesson, for it lays emphasis on the omnipotence and omniscience of our wise Father in heaven.

Though Jesus was and is God, at His incarnation He became man as well, and therefore He had a human ancestry. The list of ancestral names being discussed begins with Ruth. But as with the rest of humanity, of course, Jesus' earliest human ancestor was Adam.

God revealed to David that his dynasty would endure and that the King-Messiah would come through him. How could Ruth or Obed or Jesse or most of the others named in Jesus' human family tree have had any idea of how God was fitting them into His eternal program? They never knew, but each one played an essential role, a role planned by God Himself.

Think back over your own life. Who made it possible for you to hear the gospel? What if certain individuals had not been there at the time they were there? What contact with other people, perhaps in childhood, headed you in the right direction? Did those people know you would someday be teaching children in such-and-such a place? Of course not, but God knew. He orchestrated it all.

Two friends were discussing D. L. Moody. They said he would surely be greatly rewarded for the good works he had done. They spoke of his preaching campaigns, his work among the soldiers, and his efforts to meet the needs of the poor. Suddenly they realized there was no way to know just what Moody would be rewarded for because his work is still going on as one generation touches another—and our Father in heaven orchestrated it all.

This lesson will help your pupils recognize Jesus' combined deity and humanness. It should also awaken in them appreciation for God's great knowledge and planning, including His intimate knowledge of them.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

When Dennis Jackson came home from school, Mom was sitting on the living room couch looking at a big Bible. It was the one she and Dad always called "the family Bible."

"What are you doing, Mom?" Dennis asked. She looked up. "Oh, just sitting here reading the names of some of our Jackson family ancestors."

Ancestors? Dennis had never heard of ancestors. "What are 'ancestors'?"

"Ancestors are all the people who were in your family before you," she explained. "Dad and I are your closest ancestors, then your grandparents, and after that *their* fathers and mothers. It keeps going all the way back to your great-great-great-grandparents - more 'greats' than we can number. You had a lot more family than you see today, Dennis."

She pointed to a list of names someone had written on the middle page of the big Bible. "See? William and Sara. Those are Grandpa and Grandma Jackson's names. They were your father's father and mother. Hiram and Nancy were Grandpa Jackson's father and mother. That makes them your great-grandparents. Ben and Maud Jackson were Great-grandpa Hiram Jackson's father and mother.

"Those are all the names we happen to know, but you had other ancestors too, all the way back to your first ancestor—Adam."

"Wow!" Dennis said. "I doubt any of those ancestors knew I would be in the family someday." Then a big grin spread across his face. "But God knew!"

"You are so right, Dennis," Mom said, closing the Bible. "God knew."

Everybody has ancestors. You have ancestors. I have ancestors. When Jesus was here on earth, God was His Father. But He was also a man; so He had human ancestors too. Today we are going to find out who some of Jesus' ancestors were.

TELLING THE LESSON

You already know that when Jesus came to earth from heaven, He did not come as an angel. How did He come? (Accept responses.) Right. He came as a baby who would grow up to be a man. (Show manger scene.) That means Jesus needed a family. God knew that; so God got ancestors ready for Him.

A woman named Ruth was one of those ancestors. (Show Ruth.) Ruth lived with an older woman named Naomi. (Show Naomi.) They took care of each other.

Neither of them knew Ruth was going to be an ancestor of God's Son. But God knew! (Stand up "God knew," or print the words in large letters on the chalkboard.) God always knows just what will happen, and He knew how to make things ready.

After a while Ruth married a good man named Boaz, and then one day Naomi heard some wonderful news. The Lord had given Ruth a baby boy. (Show baby.) The baby was given the name "Obed," and Naomi got to help take care of him.

All of Naomi's friends came to visit and tell her how happy they were about the new baby. They were the ones who gave the baby his name.

Now, not one of them knew that this baby would be an ancestor of Jesus.

But God knew! (Point to "God knew.") God always knows just what will happen, and He knows how to make things ready.

Well, Obed grew up, and one day he had a baby boy. They named his baby Jesse. He would grow up to be an ancestor of Jesus too. Obed did not know that, but God knew! (Point to "God knew.") God always knows just what will happen, and He knows how to make things ready.

When Jesse grew to be a man and had his own family, he named one of his boys David. Do you suppose Jesse knew David would be an ancestor of God's Son? No, but God knew! (Point to "God knew.") God always knows just what will happen, and He knows how to make things ready.

You see, God was getting ready for Jesus. He would not come for a long time yet, but God was watching and getting ready for His coming. That is the way God does things. He knows what He wants to happen, and He puts the right people in the right place at just the right time.

Many, many years went by after that. More and more ancestors were born until at last two extra-special babies came into two different homes. Those two babies both seem to have grown up in a little town called Nazareth, and after a while they got to know each other. One was a boy named Joseph. The other was a girl named Mary.

Now, it happened that both Joseph and Mary were in Ruth and Obed and Jesse and David's big family. God planned it that way. Do you know who Mary's boy was? (Accept responses.) Yes, He was Jesus, the Son of God. (Show manger scene.)

Well, now you know the names of some of Jesus' ancestors. You can find the names of many more here in the Bible. (Show the class the list in Matthew 1.) The important thing to remember is that God knew about every one of them. (Point to "God knew.")

Not Ruth, not Obed, not Jesse, not David, not any of the others—none of them knew how important they all were. But God knew. (Point to "God knew.") From the very beginning He was making things ready for Jesus to come be our Saviour. Each of those people was helping make the family Jesus needed.

Do you think God knows about you? Of course He knows about you! He knew you were coming. He knows you are here. He wants *you* to be in His family. You do not know yet what He has for you to do, but you can be sure He knows.

Yes, Jesus had many ancestors. God wanted many different people in His family. He still wants people in Jesus' family today. He wants you.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

So are you in Jesus' family? You can be. If you do not know, come talk to me after class, and we will make sure.

For now, let us stop and say thank you that God does know about us, that He loves us, that He knew we were coming even before we were here, and that He has something special for each of us to do. (Lead the class in a prayer of thanks.)

HELPING TO REMEMBER

The children should print "Ruth" in the lower left corner of their papers, "Jesus" in the upper right, and then draw a slightly winding road joining the two. Tell them to draw on that road as many people as will fit.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE

"There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David" (Ruth 4:17).

This verse tells us the names of some of the people who were in Jesus' family long before He came to live here.

Naomi and a woman named Ruth were in the same family, and that made Ruth's baby boy Obed belong to Naomi's family too. When Obed grew up, he had a baby boy that he named Jesse. When Jesse grew up, he named his own boy David. Finally, after a long time, Baby Jesus Himself was born into that same big family.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for the patriarchs Abraham and King David, as well as the matriarchs Naomi and Ruth. In the lineage coming from them, we see that Jesus truly is the Messiah. Help us to be ready when He comes again, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is "An Angel's News for Mary." The Prophet Isaiah knew facts about Jesus' birth long before the Angel Gabriel visited Mary. Study Isaiah 7:13-17; Luke 1:30-38.

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY:

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WORD SEARCH:

"Jesus' Family Tree" Ruth 4:13-17; Matthew 1:1-6

G E L Z X M M W B P R K N Q A
H F L F K A H I R J D A N D G
Q D J J H M I F E F M G A G I
N O U A L B Z E T E J V A U B
M S R X N Z A P H J I E G Q Z
D B Z T Z N O K G D S L N B H
A R C K E A B A U O D E P M O
L H E G B O E S A E B T S N R
S Q O R O M N B D Z O E B E U
Y F P Y O I B O R N P H D J C
G J A D W T B V K S T N O S I
Y T B T B W S X K U U G E R H
D X N T H X H E R J K S U N G
B L E S S E D J R J S H E N B
G A V E F O R Y E S R U N J S

ABRAHAM
BORN
FATHER
NAOMI
RESTORER
WIFE

BLESSED
DAUGHTER
JESUS
NURSE
RUTH

BOAZ
DAVID
NAME
OBED
SON

16 words were placed into the puzzle.

WORD SEARCH SOLUTION:

"Jesus' Family Tree" Ruth 4:13-17; Matthew 1:1-6

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+ + + + + M W + + + + N + +
+ + + + + A + I R + + A + D +
+ + + + H + + F E + M + A + +
+ + + A + + Z E T E + V + + +
+ + R + + + A + H + I + + + +
+ B + + + N O + G D + + + + +
A R + + + A B + U O + + + + +
+ + E + + O + + A + B + + + +
+ + + R + M + + D + + E + + +
+ F + + O I B O R N + H D + +
+ + A + + T + + + S T N O S +
+ + + T + + S + + U U + + + +
+ + + + H + + E R + + S + + +
B L E S S E D + R + + + E + +
+ + + + + R + E S R U N J +
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(Over, Down, Direction)

ABRAHAM (1, 7, NE)
BLESSED (1, 14, E)
BOAZ (7, 7, N)
BORN (7, 10, E)
DAUGHTER (9, 9, N)
DAVID (14, 2, SW)
FATHER (2, 10, SE)
JESUS (14, 15, NW)
NAME (13, 1, SW)
NAOMI (6, 6, S)
NURSE (13, 15, W)
OBED (10, 7, SE)
RESTORER (9, 14, NW)
RUTH (9, 13, NE)
SON (14, 11, W)
WIFE (8, 1, S)

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