

# New Beginnings

## Connecting the Old and the New New Beginnings

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was fully God" (John 1:1).*

Game: If you could create a creature or a thing what would it be? Extra points if you can draw it.

New beginnings are always exciting, but they're also a challenge. Today we're going to be looking at two passages in the Bible that give us examples of how God provided new life for us in a way that no one else could. John 1:1 reminds us that in the beginning was the word and the word is from God. We are going to give you a background of those passages and then provide some discussion questions for your group. We hope you are excited to learn more about how to connect the old and New Testament's together and apply them to your life. Let's go! OK

### The Creation

When we think of creation, we often think of the world that we live in being created, but in reality God already had a plan prepared in advance. Creation was just the beginning. He created the world and everything in it from the heavens and the earth to the birds of the air, to the fishes in the sea; and he made sure that everything had a purpose and would work together. Often, we think that creation is first, but before all of that, God was there. He had a plan, and he prepared it starting with creation and continuing it throughout time.

### Have Someone Read Genesis 1

1. As you hear this story of creation, what comes to mind?: Being in your childhood home, listening to your parents read a story to you; being on a trip to the mountains, looking up at the stars and being overwhelmed; seeing the movie Star Wars and remembering to start the soundtrack in the opening scene...
2. What did God create each day? Do you think there was a reason for that particular order?
3. How and Why did God create man and woman? What instructions did he give them?
4. What does this show about God?
5. What does the fact that God made us in his own image tell us about people?
6. What have you learned from this passage about your worth? About creation?
7. What do you want to remember the next time you are feeling worthless or useless?
8. In what way do you need to change the way you treat other people (since they were made in God's image)?

### The Genealogy of Jesus

Knowing where we come from is really important. Usually, we skip over this part of Matthew because we don't want to pronounce the names and we don't remember them from the old testament. However, this is pretty important and you really need to read it because there are some kind of shocking people that are mentioned, people that wouldn't normally be mentioned in a "Patriarchal" lineage. What will we do to make sure that we live our lives so that people look back and see that what we have done is something that has made a difference and that it is something to live up to?

### Have Someone Read Matthew 1:1-17

1. Whose genealogy is Matthew tracing?
2. What prominent ancestors of Christ are mentioned?
3. What significant women were mentioned? Why is this important?

4. What important events and which three people are used as a basis for marking the generations? (1:17)
5. Why is this long genealogical list included?
6. If God works sovereignly and graciously even when we sin and make poor choices, why should we make the effort to live righteously? (1:6)
7. Why do you think God waited so many generations to send Christ?

## **The Birth of Jesus Christ**

Can you imagine finding out that your fiancé is pregnant and you know you are not the father? That is exactly the situation that Joseph found himself in, and he had to decide exactly what to do. It wasn't an easy thing to do, and he didn't want to hurt Mary, but it took an angel coming to talk to him to convince him to marry her. (For Mary's side of the story, he will have to go and check out Luke). Once he heard exactly what he needed to do Joseph did what was commanded and never looked back.

### **Have Someone Read Matthew 1:18-25**

1. What would have been your reaction had you been in Joseph's situation?
2. What happened to Mary while she and Joseph were engaged?
3. What did the angel command Joseph to name the child and why?
4. What does Immanuel mean? (1:23)
5. Why is Mary's virginal conception of Christ significant? (1:22-23)
6. How do you think a typical Church might've handled Mary's pre-marriage pregnancy?
7. What hard-to-swallow commandments do you need to obey today?