

Family Ties

Suggested Illustrations & Live Visuals:

We have taught four Christmas prophecies to children's churches.

I use PowerPoint but I have used pre-cut colored poster board.

- On two I write: Bethlehem
- On two I write: Family Tree
- On two I write: Virgin Born
- On two I write: Exact Time
- On one I write: The Beginning [4000 BC]
- On one I write: [The current year...for example 2011 AD]
- On one I write: 1 AD



Starting with the Old Testament scripture prophesy and then referring to the New Testament fulfillment of that prophecy I have students form a TimeLine in front of the class. The Beginning starts at one end & the current year at the other end with a student right in the middle holding the 1AD. Then I give them a quick lesson on the calendar of BC and AD [which now in schools is taught as BCE and CE].

The prophecies that we commonly use are:

- OT: Micah 5:2 Bethlehem NT: Matthew 2:5 Bethlehem [*refer to Christmas Prophecies-Bethlehem*]
- OT: Daniel 9:35 Exact Time NT: Luke 2: 1-2 Exact Time [*refer to Christmas Prophecies-Right on Time*]
- OT: Isaiah 7:14 Virgin Born NT: Matthew 1:23 Virgin Born
- OT: Isaiah 11:1 Exact Family NT: Matthew 1 & Luke 3 Exact Family

As I review the particular prophecies one student will hold the OT board; another student will fill in the NT.

Introduction:

Revelation 13:8 " the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Jesus' arrival on the earth to be the sacrifice for our sins was planned from the foundation of the earth.

His exact family, His exact time of arrival [Refer to Christmas Prophecies-Right on Time], His place of birth [Refer to Christmas Prophecies-Bethlehem], and the fact that He would come as God and man as a baby to a godly lady that had never been with a man in a physical way to have a child [Virgin Mom] were no surprises to God or to Jesus.

1452 BC [that is 1452 years before Christ is born] we see the prophecy that Jesus would be born into a **particular family and to a particular mother.**

Isaiah 11:1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse & a Branch shall grow out of his roots...

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Family Ties:

Francine has done a little tracing of our family trees. She knows who our great, great, great-grandparents were. It is interesting because we can learn about the way our parents were raised and this helps explain the way they raised us. It is also helpful because we can learn about genetic traits that tend towards certain sickness or diseases in our ancestors.

We all have a FAMILY TREE. Did you know that Jesus had a Family Tree, too? Matthew Chapter One and Luke Chapter 3: 25-38 list the generations that came before Jesus in His earth birth family. Matthew gives us the Family Tree of Joseph, the step-father to Jesus [The Bible, God's Word, tells us that GOD is the Father of Jesus] and Luke gives us the Family Tree of Mary, the physical mother of Jesus.

He was born to the EXACT FAMILY that God had prophesied in Genesis 12: 1-3; Genesis 17: 1-8. The Family of Abraham was promised the Messiah, Jesus. Then later in Isaiah the Bible tells us that Jesus, the Messiah, would come through the family of Jesse [who is the Dad of King David]. He was not just another man, He is the Christ. His Family Tree was planned way in advance.

God delights in numbers and math. Many times in the Bible we see God's handiwork presented in this way. The generations of Jesus' birth on the earth is also presented this way. There are exactly 14 generations from Adam to King David; then from King David until Babylon carries away the Jews into captivity are 14 generations; then from the carrying away to Babylon to Jesus are 14 generations. There are no coincidences with God. He is a planner. He plans way in advance.

Jesus has a great genealogy in three directions:

In Matthew: Jesus' step-father, Joseph is traced back to Abraham.

In Luke: Mary's lineage is traced back to King David.

In John: AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH ...we get the Heavenly genealogy of Jesus-- The ONLY really important one.

To the Jews, most looked at Joseph's family line and missed the fact that Jesus was the Messiah. They saw a son of a carpenter from the tribe/family line of Judah. He was in the right tribe/family but surely the Messiah would not have come to be a carpenter. If they had believed Mary and studied their Old Testament, they would have fallen on their faces and worshiped Jesus.

Summary:

Some people can't trace their genealogy; they are adopted and don't know their parents. Some only find out a name. But, God has adopted everyone that accepts Jesus and repents.

Galatians 4:4-6 But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Present the Plan of Salvation.