



Week 2:

Unfit: The Family
Portrait of God

Matthew 1:1-6

OPEN

This is the second week in our series called "Unfit." In this series, we are looking at how God continues to invite unlikely, undeserving, and UNFIT people to play a part in what He is doing in this world. **As you trace God's story throughout the Scriptures, you meet a long list of broken and imperfect people whom God includes in His perfect plan.** From a human perspective, Abraham was too old, Jacob was dishonest, Moses and David were murderers, Elijah and Jeremiah were suicidal, the warrior Gideon was a coward, Rahab and Tamar were prostitutes, Jonah was disobedient, the disciples abandoned Jesus, Peter denied Christ, and Paul persecuted the Church. Despite their imperfections, God invited them and more into a story much bigger than their own. God could have told His story in any way but chose broken people who he redeemed to share His message of redemption to the world.

READ

Read Matthew 1:1-6. *Although uncommon, Matthew includes four women in the genealogy of Christ raising both ethical and ethnic concerns. Tamar and Rahab were prostitutes, Rahab and Ruth were foreigners and Bathsheba also had a questionable character.*

- How does this impact your view God knowing the kind of the people he invites to be part of his family? How does this encourage you when you think about how you fit in his family?
- How does this challenge you to show grace to others who don't always seem to fit the family picture?
- **Read Genesis 12:1-3 and 2 Samuel 7:11-16.** How does Matthew 1:1 fulfill these two promises of God? How does it build your faith knowing that God's covenant to bless all nations through one nation goes all the way back to Abraham? How far back can you remember when God first revealed his presence and plan for your life?

REFLECT

Read Matthew 9:9-12. Matthew was a Jewish tax collector who worked for the Romans to tax his own people. He was not liked by either side.

- What does Jesus do to demonstrate his care for Matthew and his friends (9:10-11)? When have you reached out to someone who seemed far from God? How was that received? How did it grow your faith?
- Matthew left a lucrative job as a tax collector (see Luke 19:1-10). Unlike the disciples who could return to fishing, Matthew likely could not return to his tax collector booth.
 - What cost have you experienced in following Jesus?
 - How has Jesus met you through that?
 - Where have you struggled to give up something you wanted to follow what Jesus was calling you into?

“ **CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT THE LIVING CHRIST IS INEVITABLY CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT DISCIPLESHIP, AND CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT DISCIPLESHIP IS ALWAYS CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT CHRIST.**

-DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

- How does this quote challenge your understanding of discipleship?
- In what area of you live is Jesus calling you to follow him today? How are you responding? How are you resisting?

PRAY

- Matthew 1 describes a long list of imperfect people who were invited into God's perfect plan and family. What areas of your life keep you feeling unfit to be used by God? Pray into that for each other.
- Matthew's is redeemed and shares the message of redemption with others (Matthew 9:10). Who is your life could you share with what Jesus has done for you? Pray for opportunities and boldness for this.
- Continue to pray for our elders, staff, and leaders in this season of transition. Thank God for the unity we have and ask for his wisdom as we follow his leading during this time.