

## Marinating in God's Word: Matthew 1:1-17

Advent: it's the season when we both anticipate and yearn for good news, with our urgency rising each week. Our scripture today is one of anticipation and yearning too.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- Advent already?! That's right. As you enter Advent, think back over what has happened in your life since the last Advent season. What has the Lord done? What has he taught you? How might you enter the anticipation and yearning of Advent differently this year?
- It's now how we would introduce a book: a genealogy! But what seems tedious to us was of great interest to Matthew's first readers – early Christians of Jewish heritage. Why do you suppose they would find genealogy interesting, and this genealogy particularly so?
- See if you can find the famous names in Jesus' family tree. Which of them are "heroes" of the faith, and which are "villains"? But the "heroes" had their struggles, and the "villains" had their strengths. Name some. In your current chapter, how is your life with the Lord strong, and how is it weak? How might a Savior with such a family tree be relevant to you in each?
- If you could start over in your current season of life, how would you like to do differently how might you call upon the Savior to give you that fresh start?

Next week we will continue in Advent with Matthew 1:18-25.