



The Promise
Matthew 1:17-18

¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David *are* fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon *are* fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ *are* fourteen generations. ¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

The Big Idea: God made a promise to a woman—and fulfilled it through a woman—to bring salvation to the world through Jesus Christ. Happy Mother's Day.

1. The Promise Made

Creation → Abraham (Creation → c. 2000 BC)

- God creates man and woman for the glory of Christ
- Humanity falls under sin through Adam
- **Genesis 3:15:** A Promise to a Woman → A *Son of the woman* will crush the serpent
- Two families begin: Seed of the woman (faith) & Seed of the serpent (rebellion)

2. The Promise Grows

Abraham → David (c. 2000 BC → c. 1000 BC)

- God makes The Promise to Abraham and expands on it: *His family will be the nation through which Eve's Son would come*
- The Law and Israel's History reveals our need for Eve's Conquering Son

3. The Promise Fades

David → Babylon (c. 1000 BC → 586 BC)

- Kings rise—but none are the promised Son: *even David and Solomon fail*
- The nation spirals into idolatry and exile
- Yet God repeats The Promise to David → A coming King from David's line (2 Samuel 7)
- The prophets illuminate the Promise: this is no ordinary King (e.g., Isaiah 7:14;9:6;11)

4. The Promise Kept

Babylon → *Christ* (586 BC → c. 5 BC)

- Israel returns from exile but remains unchanged
- The Old Testament ends in disaster, silence and longing
- THEN—**Jesus is born** → Born of a woman → The true Seed → The serpent-crusher

5. The Promise Experienced

Christ → *Today*

- Jesus fulfills The Promise. Through His life, death, and resurrection: → Satan is defeated → Salvation is offered
- **The dignity of women is elevated:** → God brings salvation *through* a woman. In Christ → Her Identity is restored & Worth is secured

Small Group Discussion Guide The Promise Matthew 1:17-18

Getting Started

What's one of your favorite memories or traditions connected to Mother's Day?

Digging Deeper (Read Matthew 1:17–25 together)

1. Seeing the Big Story

- Matthew summarizes history in three sections (v.17). Why do you think he wants us to see Jesus in light of the *whole* Old Testament story?
- The sermon described the Bible as one unfolding promise. How does that change the way you think about the Old Testament?

2. The Promise Made (Genesis 3:15)

- Read Genesis 3:15. What exactly is God promising here?
- Why is it significant that the promise focuses on the *seed of the woman*?
- The sermon described two “families” in the world. How do you see that reality still playing out today?

3. The Promise Grows & Fades

- As the promise moves through Abraham, Moses, and David, what patterns do you see in God's people?
- Why do you think God allowed such a long history of failure (judges, kings, exile) before sending Christ?

4. The Promise Kept

- In Matthew 1:18–25, what stands out to you about when & how Jesus enters the world?
- Why is the virgin birth essential to understanding who Jesus is?
- How does Jesus uniquely fulfill the promises made throughout the Old Testament?

5. The Promise Experienced

- The sermon emphasized the dignity God gives to women by bringing salvation *through* a woman. Why is that significant?
- Where do you see the world diminishing the value and dignity of women?
- How does the gospel restore identity and worth—for both women and men?

Making It Real

- Ladies, where are you tempted to ground your identity (performance, relationships, roles, gender, success)? Why are those “brittle foundations”?
- What would it look like this week to root your identity more fully in Christ?
- How can you actively affirm and reflect the dignity God gives to others—especially women—in your life?

Resources:

www.blueletterbible.org

www.biblehub.com

www.preceptaustin.org