# Family Tree – A Common Thread

December 3-4, 2016

**Community**:

1. Do you have anyone famous in your family tree? Who is it?

2. Do you think that family trees are important? Why or why not?

**Core**:

1. Why do you think family trees are used so often in the Bible?

2. **Read Matthew 1:1-2 and then look up a summary of who Tamar and Rahab were**. Why do you think God would use people with their type of story to be Jesus' ancestors? Can you see the similarity between them and you, and how we are included into Jesus' family today?

3. **Read 1 Corinthians 1:27.** Why do you think God chooses what is low and despised in the world to bring Himself glory?

4. **Read Ephesians 2:8-9.** Do you find yourself trying to earn God's grace when you mess up? Why do you think you do that?

5. **Read Romans 11:17-20.** How have you seen Christians be arrogant with the grace given to them? What does it look like for you to be humble with God's grace?

6. If you have made the decision to believe that Jesus is the Son of God and your savior, has your life changed since being "grafted into the family"? How?

7. Have you seen areas of your life that Jesus has flooded with grace, and where you thought you could never change, He has slowly started changing? How have you seen Him take a place in your life that was low and used it for good?

**Challenge**:

Set some time away this week to pray and meditate before God, asking Him for the wisdom and guidance to do the following:

1. Reveal where you are arrogant with Jesus' grace, and then take some steps to humbling yourself under Him.
2. What would it take for you to live free in Jesus' grace? Jim ended his talk by saying, "Remember…the reason for this tree…and above all else…the reason for Christmas is this…No matter what I've done or where I've come from…by faith…Jesus has made it possible for me to be grafted into the family tree of God." What do you need to do to live and believe that Jesus has actually forgiven you for what you've done?