

# TALK IT OVER

## Family Tree

### BOTTOM LINE

The deprived, desperate, displaced, and disgraced most easily access and experience the grace of God.

### CONVERSATION STARTER

What is the best surprise you ever got at Christmas?

### THINGS TO CONSIDER

*What did you hear?*

*What do you think?*

*What will you do?*

### RESOURCES

- The Daily: [newpointe.org/thedaily](http://newpointe.org/thedaily)
- [Why Does Jesus' Family Tree Matter?](#) - (5-min. read)

### KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 1 Peter 1:3-6 NIV*

*Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Mary gave birth to Jesus, who is called the Messiah. All those listed above include fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the Babylonian exile, and fourteen from the Babylonian exile to the Messiah. Matthew 1:16-17 NLT*

“One of the critical things Jesus set out to change through His life and teachings was to redeem the value and treatment of women in the culture.” – Dave VanDonge

“Grace defined: Being gifted is something you did not earn or deserve. The surprise of Christmas is unwrapped in Jesus' family, where grace and scandal collide!” – Dave VanDonge

### TALK IT OVER

Jesus redeemed the value and worth of women by His life and message. How well do you think that is reflected in the life of the church today? In general culture? How could we improve? Tamar was deprived of the life she longed for and carried the weight of a secret. Why are secrets so shaming and difficult? Rahab was labeled as a prostitute, isolating her and causing desperation. Have you ever carried a label that was painful? How has grace impacted that? Ruth was a displaced outsider. If you have ever experienced the pain of not feeling a part of the community, share that and how grace has helped you. Bathsheba was publicly disgraced. But she discovered that God's grace was greater than the sins she had committed AND the ones committed against her. How has that become real to you? We are to be conveyors of God's grace. How can we help God's grace become a reality to others? How can we hinder it? Who do you know who needs to receive God's grace from you this Christmas season?

### ACTION STEP

I am grateful for the grace God has made available to receive and extend. This Christmas season I will explore areas where God's grace needs to be applied in my life, and to whom I can extend that grace: \_\_\_\_\_