KINGDOM *of* HEAVEN

A SERIES IN THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

Matthew 1:1-17

(Sermon from Sunday 26 February 2023, Richard van Lieshout)

How to use this guide

This year we are encouraging you as CG's to continue with the 'transformation equation' in the structure of your CG time:

Information + Activation + Implementation = Transformation

CG leaders thus do spend time imparting '**Information**', which may be a short recap of the sermon, but will likely be more spent on unpacking other aspect to the text that didn't make it into the sermon.

However, the foremost priority of CG's, is the '**Activation**' part. This is where the Information learned is activated into real life. 'Application' is also relevant here, but most sermons will include an 'application' portion. What makes activation different is that it is applied uniquely to the individuals in your group (in ways that could never be done in a sermon!)

Lastly, '**Implementation**' would be 'resolutions' the group makes to declare intent on following-through on some of the activation elements. The word 'accountability' is also relevant here, as wise CG leaders will also ask the group how they have 'implemented' the resolutions from the previous week.

It is only through all these elements that true transformation takes place, and **CG's play a prominent role in this, particularly in 'Activation' and 'Implementation'**. So don't just let the group default to another teaching time - lets be like those who 'build upon the rock' by being doers of Jesus's words, not just listeners! (Matthew 7:24-27).

These notes will assist you with 'Activation' by providing suggested questions that could apply the sermon in deeper ways. It will also point you to other 'information' points in the text that could be discussed.

1. **Information**

a) Read the passage, perhaps twice using two different versions

- I suggest reading BOTH the **ESV** and **NIV** here, as there are differences in some of the names listed! This is intriguing, and resolved in the resources I mention below (b). It is not in the CG leader notes.

b) Fill in any info that didn't make it into the sermon.

- The genealogy of Matthew 1 could literally be preached over 3 Sunday as there is so much material in there!
- Besides the CG notes, have a look at the following helpful resources:
  - **Overview bible**: This guy highlighted the discrepancy in names mentioned, its worth a listen (10min)
  - **Bible project:** Always a great resource, this mentions some unique features of the genealogy too.
  - **Gospel Coalition**: Also always a great resource, this article has five points about the genealogy.

c) Answer any questions the group might have

2. **Activation**

a) **Theological**

- Matthew's genealogy is primarily theological. His purpose is to show that Jesus is the 'Christ, son of David, son of Abraham' (Matthew 1:1).
- In the sermon I focused on Jesus as King, and the 'application' had a strong element of inviting people to submit their own lives (ie 'kingdoms') under the reign of King Jesus.

- **You may want to to follow that up!** Maybe there are people in your group who need a prompting to fully bring their life story into the story of Jesus?

- I did also push the point that 'Jesus is not my life coach'. The Kingship of Jesus demands more than just calling on him for assistance from time to time. **Listen out for this in the sermon, and perhaps reflect on it with your group**.

b) **Practical**

- I wish I could have spent more time on some of the background stories to some of the names mentioned!
- I did highlight the appearance of scandal-ridden names in the genealogy, which is all meant to show us that there is no such thing as 'undesirables' in the 'Kingdom of heaven'

- **You may wish to reflect on this with your group, perhaps in tandem with a reflection on these passages**:
    - Matthew 9:9-13
    - 1 Timothy 1:15

- **How does this reflect on how we view other people, who perhaps have 'shady' stories in their past?**

3. **Implementation**

- The 'transformation equation' can similarly be described as:
    i. What? (Information)
    ii. So what? (Activation)
    iii. **Now what? (Implementation)**

- This third step is crucial! Think about the answer to the question '**Now what**'? As it relates to the genealogy and make some commitments to each other as a group, that you can follow up on next week.

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