

UNEXPECTED

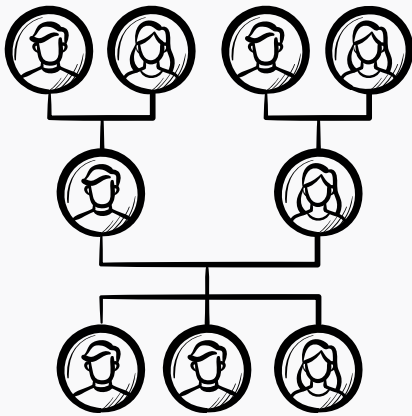
THE SURPRISING **GIFT** THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

WEEK 1



Where the story begins

1 min recap



In the book of Matthew, the Christmas story begins with the genealogy of Jesus, which includes outcasts, failures, and overlooked people.

Is that how you have been told that Christmas begins? Why do you think that's important to know?

Get honest.

When you think about how you'd start the most important story ever told, would you include the people who others think shouldn't be there?

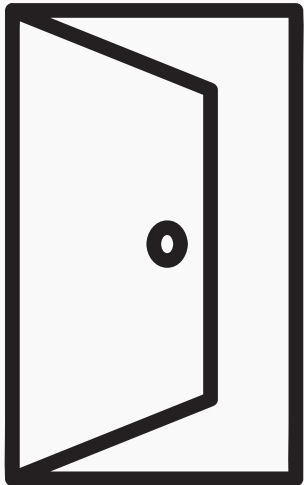
Who do you exclude in your own life story? Why?

UNEXPECTED

THE SURPRISING **GIFT** THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

WEEK 1

LEARN



read outloud

**matt.
9:11-13**

Later when Jesus was eating supper at Matthew's house with his close followers, a lot of disreputable characters came and joined them. When the Pharisees saw him keeping this kind of company, they had a fit, and lit into Jesus' followers. "What kind of example is this from your Teacher, acting cozy with crooks and misfits?" Jesus, overhearing, shot back, "Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick? Go figure out what this Scripture means: 'I'm after mercy, not religion.' I'm here to invite outsiders, not coddle insiders."

Think on it.

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- How would you define mercy?
- Would you consider yourself an insider or an outsider?

UNEXPECTED

THE SURPRISING **GIFT** THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

WEEK 1



FOLLOW

What you'll need:

- your phone
- time to pick a person
- time to text a message

Take time to think of someone in your phone contacts who is “outside” or left out somehow.

Why do you think they are in that position?

Text them and invite them “in,” i.e., to coffee, to a conversation, to dinner, to your church, to anything.

Pray to grow.

It can be vulnerable and risky to be the kind of person looking for those others overlook.

Pray for each of you to grow in the ability to open your life to those others wouldn't.

UNEXPECTED

THE SURPRISING **GIFT** THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

WEEK 1



ENGAGE

Be sure to stay in step with our L.I.F.E. rhythms as a Group.

We've added new ways you can serve our community this month!

We have several new causes you can give to this month.

Check it out on the app!

