

TAKEAWAY

Christmas 2025

Four Mother Christmases



In line with our goal to be a church of disciples who make disciples, this session is focussed on action, so that we are 'doers of the word' and not just hearers/people who enjoy a good discussion! It encourages focussed practical outcomes in the lives of the individuals in the group so that our discipleship as followers of Jesus is deliberately pursued.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- To reflect on how the story of Jesus meets us where we're at, no matter what our stories are.
- To talk about what it means to be "adopted as sons", how do we further realise this wonderful truth?

INTRODUCTION

It's Christmas time again! Christmas is often a great time to talk to others about our faith. People tend to be open to invitations to church events – and we've got a great opportunity to use them.

SHARE

How well do you know your genealogy or family tree? Are there any surprises in it?

You may wish to read Matthew 1:1-17 before discussing:

What do you know and remember about the stories of the four named women in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Mary? What jumped out at you about these stories? Was there anything you particularly related to?

READ

Romans 8:18-25

DISCUSS

What are the distinct promises that you can identify in this passage? How many can you find (*Hint, depending on how you count, there are around 10*)?

Which of the promises speaks to you most powerfully? Why?

The passage has a mix of "now" and "not yet" promises. What are some of the "not yet" promises? To what extent should we pursue them now?

How can we maintain hope during a prolonged season of waiting?

Is there anything you are "waiting patiently for" (either now or in your past)?

PRAY

Pray for one another according to anything that came up in the discussion – specifically that we would know God working all things together for good in our lives.

TRY OUT

Make a plan this next week to encourage others (either in person, through text messages or phone call) in your group of the hope Jesus brings or share verses that remind us of this over the Christmas Season (See Isaiah 40:29-31...).

EXPLAIN

This passage talks about us being adopted as "sons", but it includes both men and women into the 'sonship' of God's family.