



## WEEKLY STUDY

### WEEK 3

This week we concluded the current series on God's love for lost things, and we continued through our study of the Gospel of Luke. The verse for the year at Providence is "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19.10) Together, we are praying about and anticipating how God might recover the lost things in our lives, and in the lives of countless others. As you read and pray this week, may you get a sense of God's hand at work even through your messy family tree.

Peace of Christ,  
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

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## DAILY STUDY

### MONDAY: LUKE 3.23-38

<sup>23</sup> Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli, <sup>24</sup> the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, <sup>25</sup> the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, <sup>26</sup> the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, <sup>27</sup> the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, <sup>28</sup> the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, <sup>29</sup> the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, <sup>30</sup> the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim, <sup>31</sup> the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, <sup>32</sup> the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Sala, the son of Nahshon, <sup>33</sup> the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Arni, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, <sup>34</sup> the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, <sup>35</sup> the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, <sup>36</sup> the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, <sup>37</sup> the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel, the son of Cainan, <sup>38</sup> the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

- Once again, Luke sets the story of Jesus within an identifiable context. When he writes that Jesus was *about thirty years of age* when he began his ministry, he is referring to the Old Testament practice of a priest or prophet appropriately beginning their ministry around the age of thirty. As you look through this lineage of Jesus, take a moment to circle the names that sound familiar to you. What do you know about them? Consider your own lineage as best you know it. Are there obscure names and characters that your family tends to brush past? God used a “messy family tree” to bring the Rescuer into the world. It’s not a straight line, and it’s filled with messy and disturbing stories. **Is the same true of your family tree? Where are moments of redemption and recovery found in your family’s story?**
- *God, I come from a long line of amazingly imperfect people. All the stories I know and the ones I never will are a part of how you have brought me to an encounter with Jesus. Thank you God. Amen.*

## TUESDAY: 1 CHRONICLES 3.5

*David reigned in Jerusalem thirty-three years,<sup>5</sup> and these were the children born to him there: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan and Solomon. These four were by Bathsheba, daughter of Ammiel.*

- David had a lot of sons over his years. These were the children born to Bathsheba. (There were five in total but an earlier son did not survive and was not named). Most of us look at this list and our eyes go towards Solomon whom the Bible tells us much about. But Luke included Nathan in his lineage of Jesus. Nathan was named by his mother in honor of her advisor Nathan the prophet, who also bravely called out David’s sins. **Why might Luke have felt it important to name Nathan in the lineage? What significance might his inclusion have for the rest of the story? For our story?**
- *God of all the ages, I can see your hand at work through the generations. Give me eyes to see and a heart to marvel at your wisdom and grace. Amen.*

## WEDNESDAY: GENESIS 38.24-30

*About three months later Judah was told, “Your daughter-in-law Tamar is guilty of prostitution, and as a result she is now pregnant.”*

*Judah said, “Bring her out and have her burned to death!”*

<sup>25</sup> *As she was being brought out, she sent a message to her father-in-law. “I am pregnant by the man who owns these,” she said. And she added, “See if you recognize whose seal and cord and staff these are.”*

<sup>26</sup> *Judah recognized them and said, “She is more righteous than I, since I wouldn’t give her to my son Shelah.” And he did not sleep with her again.*

<sup>27</sup> *When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb.* <sup>28</sup> *As she was giving birth, one of them put out his hand; so the midwife took a scarlet thread and tied it on his wrist and said, “This one came out first.”* <sup>29</sup> *But when he drew back his hand, his brother came out, and she said, “So this is how you have broken out!” And he was named Perez.* <sup>30</sup> *Then his brother, who had the scarlet thread on his wrist, came out. And he was named Zerah.*

- Perez was born in a similar manner as his grandfather Jacob. He pushed his way past his twin to get a higher position in the family. This is a messy story that most families would try to keep under wraps. We all carry pieces of brokenness in our family stories, and yet Luke included both Judah and Perez in the list of Jesus lineage. **Are there parts of your family story that are too scandalous to recount? An exercise for you or your family might be to identify God's grace both before and after those parts of your family story. Jesus could certainly have found evidence of his Father's hand throughout the generations before him.**
- *Jesus, you have been with us through all of the ups and downs of human history. Will you come and redeem the broken story that we are living in even now? Amen.*

#### THURSDAY: GENESIS 9.18-23

*The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.)<sup>19</sup> These were the three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the whole earth.*

<sup>20</sup> *Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard.<sup>21</sup> When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent.<sup>22</sup> Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father naked and told his two brothers outside.<sup>23</sup> But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's naked body. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father naked.*

- We all hope that when people look back on our life, they will remember some of the very best things about us. Noah was a man of great faith who withstood ridicule in order to faithfully follow God's instructions for building an ark that would save his family and the creatures of the earth in the coming flood. That's what we remember when we tell our children the story of Noah. But after the flood was over and Noah's sons began to repopulate the earth, Noah was found drunk on his own wine and naked. The real headline that the family would focus on for generations to come was not that Noah was drunk and naked, but that one of the sons saw his father naked. The others (including Shem) did not. To name Shem in the lineage of Jesus (as Luke did in Luke 3) is to remember this messy story. This convoluted story is a part of our story as followers of Jesus. **Does this account change your view of Noah? Are there parts of your own story that you wish you could edit out? Could it be that even Noah was ultimately dependent upon God's Rescuer after the flood?**
- *God, you promise to throw my sin into the sea, and yet the sins of my family of faith seem to come back over and over. I look forward to the redemption of all the broken and messy pieces of my life and of this world. Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.*

#### FRIDAY: GENESIS 4.25-26

*Adam made love to his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, "God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him."<sup>26</sup> Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh.*

*At that time people began to call on the name of the LORD.*

- Things went downhill pretty quickly for Adam and Eve and their family. After their own sin in the garden, their first son killed their second son. *Yet God did not give up.* God granted them another son, Seth, whose line would eventually lead to a time when people began to call on the name of the Lord. This was a huge moment in human history. Things had gone so poorly for this family (who had been created in the image of God) that it looked hopeless, *and yet* God could still turn the hearts of the people. **There are hopeless-looking situations in our world today, no doubt,**

**but is it possible that we are just one generation away from a time when people begin to call on the name of the Lord? What would it look like to be a part of such a time?**

- *God, I want to be a part of the ongoing revival that is possible through your Son Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. May it begin with me and my messy family. Amen.*

## **SATURDAY: PSALM 22.4-10**

*In you our ancestors put their trust;  
they trusted and you delivered them.*

<sup>5</sup> *To you they cried out and were saved;  
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.*

<sup>6</sup> *But I am a worm and not a man,  
scorned by everyone, despised by the people.*

<sup>7</sup> *All who see me mock me;  
they hurl insults, shaking their heads.*

<sup>8</sup> *“He trusts in the LORD,” they say,  
“let the LORD rescue him.*

*Let him deliver him,  
since he delights in him.”*

<sup>9</sup> *Yet you brought me out of the womb;  
you made me trust in you, even at my mother’s breast.*

<sup>10</sup> *From birth I was cast on you;  
from my mother’s womb you have been my God.*

- The lineage of Jesus points out the many times in which God has intervened to deliver God’s people. In Psalm 22, David remembered that his ancestors cried out and were saved, yet he finds that he himself still needs rescue. **How do David’s words in verses 9-10 connect with your heart today? Talk to God about the ways in which you seek to be rescued and thank God for being with you even before you were born.**
- *God of every broken and imperfect person on this earth, you are my God and I look with great anticipation to the rescue that is to come. Amen.*

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

You might notice that our reading this week took us backward through the history of God’s people. We spent several days in the book of Genesis which marks how the patterns were set that still impact the messy family trees God works through today.

Take a few minutes to sketch out your family tree. How far back can you go?

What stories of redemption and recovery of lost things inform your faith today?