



Winter 2020–2021 Theme:
The Call of God in the New Testament
Unit I: The Beginning of a Call

Lesson Titles:

Fulfilling One's Calling
(Faith Pathway Bible Studies)

Called through Heritage
(Townsend Press Sunday School
Commentary)

LESSON 1—December 6, 2020

Devotional Reading:

Psalms 102:12-22

Background Scriptures:

Hebrews 1; Matthew 1:1-17

Print Passages:

Hebrews 1:1-5; Matthew 1:1-6, 16-17

Key Verse(s):

Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds. (Hebrews 1:2, KJV)

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In these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. (Hebrews 1:2, NIV)

► Questions to Consider:

1. What is the nature and identity of Jesus Christ?
2. Why was it important for the writer to recount Jesus' lineage?

► Lesson Aims:

As a result of experiencing this lesson, the participants should be able to do these things:

- Grasp the significance of Jesus' earthly heritage and His heavenly origins
- Wonder at the depth and scope of God's eternal plan to bring salvation through Jesus
- Worship Jesus as God's definitive word to humanity

► Lesson Context:

The book of Hebrews set the story of Jesus in the context of God's redemptive work. Matthew opens his Gospel with a genealogy to prove that Jesus is the descendant of both King David and Abraham, just as the Old Testament had predicted.

► Lesson Outlines/Key Points:

I. A Rich Heritage: Extraordinary (Hebrews 1:1-5)

Key Point 1: Christ is described as superior to the prophets.

Key Point 2: After describing Christ as superior to the prophets, the writer presents Him as the exact image of God.

II. A Deep Heritage: Extensive (Matthew 1:1-6, 16-17)

Key Point 1: Matthew was intentional in helping readers to know and appreciate the richness of Jesus' lineage.

Key Point 2: Jesus is introduced as the Son of Abraham, emphasizing Jesus as the fulfillment of God's covenant promise to Abraham that his descendants would be a blessing to all the families of the earth.

► **Lesson Summary:**

God used people in Jesus' lineage, who were not perfect. He used people with stained, blemished histories, who had strengths, frailties, successes, and failures to be a part of Jesus' genealogy.

What do you think? (These questions are found in this week's Faith Pathway student book.)

1. How do you explain the twofold nature of Jesus' identity as both the Son of God and the fully divine manifestation of God?

2. How important is family history today? (Discuss its spiritual implications.)

As a result of this lesson, I will do the following:
