

C. Ruth, a **Moabite**. (Ruth 1)

D. Uriah's wife, **Bathsheba**. (2 Samuel 11)

### **Jesus himself is called a "friend of sinners."**

A. You see the **scarlet thread** run through the Old Testament story about sinners and ultimately to the **Anointed One** who took on all our sins. That is the Good News!

If you've been on the receiving end of His amazing grace, then the question for us this morning is "How's your **heart**?"

### **Small Group Discussion Questions:**

1) Have you ever read Matthew 1? Share your experience?

2) Have you ever felt disqualified to be a part of God's family? Or to be used by Him?

3) Share a time when you experienced God's unconditional love for you.

4) Jesus was called a "friend of sinners". Who are you praying for to come to know Christ? Who are you inviting to Christmas Eve services or the next Alpha course in January?

5) Name two people who you would throw a birthday party for at 3:30 in the morning?



# Redeeming Notes

Pastor John Niewald ..... December 10, 2006

Activity Center

"The Surprising Messiah", Matthew 1:1-16

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**Why would Matthew start out his book with a cure for insomnia?**

A. Israelites loved **genealogies**.

1. **Connect** with the people.

2. It would **establish** the **identity** of the Messiah.

**Why did Matthew put women's names in his genealogy of Jesus?**

A. Tamar, a **Canaanite** woman. (Genesis 38)

1. A scarlet cord as a reminder of an **inheritance** to come.

B. Rahab, a **Pagan prostitute**. (Joshua 2)

1. A scarlet cord as a sign of **salvation**.