Fertile Question: *Why do I need a story to live by?*

Core Content Area 1: My stories

**TOPIC 1.2 Personal stories**

**Depthing Understanding: Genealogy and oral tradition**

In this lesson students will explore the use of genealogy in storytelling and the importance of the oral storytelling tradition.

**Teachers: Before You Start!**

1. Familiarise yourself with the Bible references referred to in this lesson.

**For students to explore the use of genealogy in storytelling and the importance of the oral storytelling tradition, select from the following activities:**

1. Reflect on the importance of oral storytelling in religious traditions.
   a. Research the importance of oral storytelling in a particular faith tradition.
      i. Choose from one of the big world religions and investigate the place of oral storytelling in the history of the tradition.
      ii. Design a retrieval chart to record information.
      iii. Conclude your research with a statement about the importance of the oral storytelling tradition in the chosen religious tradition.

   a. Read the genealogy of Jesus Christ as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew 1:1-17.
      i. Identify the storytelling devices used in the genealogy that would have assisted oral storytellers to remember the genealogy.
      ii. Consider the Jewish background of many of the early Christians and explore the following questions in relation to the social context and beliefs of the people. What is the importance of Jesus being known as a Son (ancestor) of King David? What is a Messiah and why would it be important for Jews that Jesus is named as the Messiah? Why do you think the authors of Matthew have gone to so much trouble to name Jesus’ ancestors? What meaning does the genealogy of Jesus have for Christians today?
         i. Research the importance of the Stone of Scone in the history of the British royalty and the genealogy of the Queen Elizabeth II.

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