

Judah and Tamar  
Lesson #20  
Genesis 38:1-30

In the midst of the narrative describing Joseph's capture, we are brought back to Judah and his shameful behavior. This seems out of place but keep in mind that we are following God's story. It is through the line of Judah that the Messiah will come.

**Judah Builds A Family - Genesis 38:1-12a**

1. What had been Judah's role with the brothers as they tried to kill Joseph?  
(Genesis 37:26, 27)
2. The narrative does not give a times line, but at some point, Judah decided he needed to leave his brothers. Where did he go? (Genesis 38:1)
3. What was the result of this move? (Genesis 38:2-5)
4. As was the culture, parents arranged marriages for their children. What was the name of his firstborn son Er's wife? (Genesis 38:6)

When a name is given, that person is important to the story.

5. How did the LORD view Er? (Genesis 38:7)
6. Judah then told his second son to fulfill the role of a Levirate. What was that law?  
(Deuteronomy 25:5, 6)
7. How did Judah's second son, Onan feel about this? (Genesis 38:8-10)

8. What was Judah's final solution to this situation? (Genesis 38:11)
  
9. What information was given in Genesis 38:12a?
  - Regarding the time
  
  
  - About Judah's wife

**Judah and Tamar - Genesis 12b-30**

10. After a time of grieving, Judah went to Timnah. What friend was with him? (Genesis 38:12)
  
11. What did Tamar do when she found out? (Genesis 38:13, 14a)
  - Why? (Genesis 38:14b)
  
12. What did Judah think when he saw her? (Genesis 38:15)
  
13. Judah asked her to sleep with him. Tamar knew that if she was found out, it would be a death sentence. What did she say to him? (Genesis 38:16)
  
14. What was his answer? (Genesis 38:17a)
  
15. What was Tamar's response to that offer? (Genesis 38:17b)

16. When Judah asked what she wanted as a pledge, how did she answer? (Genesis 38:18)
  
17. After she slept with Judah, what did she do? (Genesis 38:19)
  
18. The text states that Tamar did get pregnant. Judah tried to make good on his promise by sending the agreed upon young goat to her. When she wasn't found, what did the men of Timnah say? (Genesis 38:21, 22)
  
19. When his friend delivered the news, what was Judah's response? (Genesis 38:23)
  
20. How long did it take Judah to discover that Tamar was pregnant? (Genesis 38:24a)
  
21. What did he intend to do to her? (Genesis 38:24b)
  
22. Tamar was very wise and had requested items from Judah that were very personal, and recognizable. When she was brought out for punishment, what did she reveal? (Genesis 38:25)
  
23. There was no denying whom they belonged to. What did Judah finally admit? (Genesis 38:26a)
  
24. Judah would now be responsible for her care, so he took her to his home. What additional information was added? (Genesis 38:26b)
  
25. What was said about this birth? (Genesis 38:27)
  
26. What did the first one do? (Genesis 38:28, 29a)
  
27. Then what happened? (Genesis 38:29b, 30)