



## THEMATIC OVERVIEW

*Where do you expect to experience a breakthrough spiritually or emotionally speaking?*

**Sin** is the Bible's word for putting yourself in a unique space that God is meant to occupy.

The **gospel** in this passage can be located in the way Jesus claims in his genealogy a woman like Tamar and a man like Judah. We can also see the gospel in what Judah declares in verse 26 that Tamar despite her sins is righteous! And Christ himself pays willingly in his sacrificial love for this to be true of us.

## PRAYER GUIDELINES

*In prayer, we ask God to transform us and the world around us with His grace.*

*This means we avoid advice-giving and fixing one another and instead, embrace mutual dependance on our loving Father through Christ in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.*

*There is a place for advice and processing something together but wait for that invitation from the person sharing.*

## Welcome + Opening Prayer

## Genesis 38:11-19, 24-30

*See passage printed on the back of this page.*

## Explore + Apply

1. What has been surprising about the book of Genesis as we have studied it this year, specifically in the way Genesis portrays Abraham's family, the family through whom God's promised rescuer will come (Genesis 3:15 and Genesis 12:1-3)?
2. Judah shows a fierce sense of anger toward Tamar in verse 24 for her sins and yet was blind to his own sin until Tamar called him out in verse 25. Who are the people you shake your head at? Who are the people you despise? Who do you hate? In what ways might you be the same as "them," or worse? What are the sins that you find acceptable but the ones you have a strong reaction to?
3. What would a breakthrough spiritually or emotionally look like for you? For Judah, the one with a great deal of privilege in this situation, it looked like humility (v. 26). For Tamar, it looked like great courage. Which do you need? How does the gospel of Jesus Christ create "a breach" (v. 29) or "a way through," possible?

## Pray

- Reflect on God's steadfast commitment to a dysfunctional family
- Pray and listen: What are your blindspots? Who do you despise? How might you be the same or worse than them? How does God's grace become more real and create a breakthrough for you as you reflect on those you hate or despise or are in conflict with?
- Pray "Thy Kingdom come" here in West Seattle, in the U.S. and around the world, as the Church more deeply receives the blessing of God right now as we are, without the pretending and posturing, and boldly extends his blessing to others.

*Home Groups are a vital part of shared life and growth in Christ. Here, we build community, deepen relationships, and discover and live the Christian life together.*

## GROUP SCHEDULE - SPRING

*Next HG - wk of May 19  
decide your summer social plans*

## **Genesis 38:11-19, 24-30**

11 Then Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, “Remain a widow in your father's house, till Shelah my son grows up”—for he feared that he would die, like his brothers. So Tamar went and remained in her father's house.

12 In the course of time the wife of Judah, Shua's daughter, died. When Judah was comforted, he went up to Timnah to his sheepshearers, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite. 13 And when Tamar was told, “Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep,” 14 she took off her widow's garments and covered herself with a veil, wrapping herself up, and sat at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. For she saw that Shelah was grown up, and she had not been given to him in marriage. 15 When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face. 16 He turned to her at the roadside and said, “Come, let me come in to you,” for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. She said, “What will you give me, that you may come in to me?” 17 He answered, “I will send you a young goat from the flock.” And she said, “If you give me a pledge, until you send it—” 18 He said, “What pledge shall I give you?” She replied, “Your signet and your cord and your staff that is in your hand.” So he gave them to her and went in to her, and she conceived by him. 19 Then she arose and went away, and taking off her veil she put on the garments of her widowhood.

24 About three months later Judah was told, “Tamar your daughter-in-law has been immoral. Moreover, she is pregnant by immorality.” And Judah said, “Bring her out, and let her be burned.” 25 As she was being brought out, she sent word to her father-in-law, “By the man to whom these belong, I am pregnant.” And she said, “Please identify whose these are, the signet and the cord and the staff.” 26 Then Judah identified them and said, “She is more righteous than I, since I did not give her to my son Shelah.” And he did not know her again.

27 When the time of her labor came, there were twins in her womb. 28 And when she was in labor, one put out a hand, and the midwife took and tied a scarlet thread on his hand, saying, “This one came out first.” 29 But as he drew back his hand, behold, his brother came out. And she said, “What a breach you have made for yourself!” Therefore his name was called Perez. 30 Afterward his brother came out with the scarlet thread on his hand, and his name was called Zerah.