

Judah's Troubled Family

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Messiah; Redeemer; Judah / Genesis 38

In Genesis 38, Moses interrupts the narrative flow with the account of Judah and Tamar in which the seed promise is almost wasted on Judah and his troubled family.

Children's Questions

Parent Note

[Genesis 38](#) contains the difficult subject of prostitution. Please use wisdom in discussing this chapter with your children. One suggestion would be to teach them that Judah sinned against God without specifically naming his sin.

Ages 3-5

Who did we learn about today?

Did Judah always make good choices?

Can God see everything we do?

Can we hide our sins from God?

What should we do when we sin?

Does Jesus forgive sinners who trust Him?

Did God keep His promises even when people sinned?

Who is the great King that came from Judah's family? (Jesus)

Parent Reinforcement

Ask: "What should we do when we do something wrong?"

Emphasize: We tell the truth, confess our sin, and trust Jesus.

Ages 6-9

Why was Judah's friendship with the Canaanites dangerous?

What did Judah finally admit about himself?

Why is it important to confess our sins?

Can we hide anything from God?

How did God protect His promise through Judah's family?

Who eventually came from Judah's family line?

Parent Reinforcement

Discuss a time when admitting wrongdoing was difficult.

Read [1 John 1:9](#) together.

Pray a prayer of confession and thanksgiving for forgiveness.

Ages 10-12

What does [Genesis 38](#) teach us about the consequences of sin?

How did Judah become influenced by ungodly people?

What evidence suggests Judah truly repented?

What does it mean that Tamar was "more righteous" than Judah?

How does God's sovereignty appear throughout this chapter?

Why is Perez important in God's plan of redemption?

How does Judah's story point us toward Jesus?

Parent Reinforcement

Discuss the difference between being sorry after getting caught and genuine repentance.

Read [Psalm 51:1-4](#) together.

Ask: "What does true repentance look like?"

Teen Discussion Questions

What cultural pressures today are similar to Judah's immersion in Canaanite culture?

How can friendships influence our spiritual direction?

Why do people often excuse their own sins while condemning others?

What stands out about Judah's confession?

How would you define biblical repentance?

What evidence of repentance appears later in Judah's life?

How does [Genesis 38](#) challenge the idea that God only uses "good people"?

What does this chapter teach about God's sovereignty and human responsibility?

Why is the gospel such good news for people who are like Judah?

How does Jesus succeed where Judah failed?

Family Challenge This Week

Read [Genesis 44:18-34](#) together and discuss:

How is Judah in [Genesis 44](#) different from Judah in [Genesis 38](#)?