

Community Group Questions (Genesis 38:1-30)

- Begin by reading Genesis 38:1-30 and discussing what you found most helpful, encouraging or challenging from this week's passage and message

1. The Depths of Human Depravity

- Judah "went down and turned aside" (v.1). What do those words reveal about his spiritual trajectory, and how do we see similar patterns in our own lives when we drift from God?
- How do the "saw and took" moments in Genesis (3:6; 6:1-2; 12:15; 34:2; 38:2) expose the destructive power of unchecked desires? Where do you see parallels in today's culture?
- Judah judged Tamar harshly while being guilty of even greater sin himself (v.24). Why do you think hypocrisy is such a common danger in the church, especially around sexual sin?

2. The Possibility of Transformation

- Judah's words, "She is more righteous than I" (v.26), marked a turning point in his life. Why is confession and honest acknowledgment of sin such a crucial first step toward transformation?
- Compare Judah's repentance to David's confrontation by Nathan (2 Samuel 12). How does God sometimes use confrontation or crisis to bring us to repentance?
- Genuine repentance involves a change of direction (v.26). What are some practical ways we can measure whether repentance is genuine in our own lives?

3. The Staggering Grace of God

- Despite the sin and brokenness in this story, Judah and Tamar are included in the genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:3). What does this teach us about the scope of God's grace?
- How does the "black velvet" backdrop of sin in Genesis 38 make God's grace shine even brighter? Can you think of times in your own life where God brought beauty out of brokenness?
- Genesis 38 shows us that "no amount of human wickedness can thwart the plan of God." How does this truth give us hope when we look at evil in the world today?