

**WEEK 2 | WAITING FOR JUSTICE: TAMAR**  
**GENESIS 38:11-30**



**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER (5-10 MINUTES)**

Catch everybody up to date on what's going on with New City. You can use your bulletin or the [Weekly Roundup](#) as a tool to do so (especially remind folks of Christmas Party and Hymnsing on Friday and that Christmas Store gifts are due in this Sunday)

Take a few moments to pray for any needs you know of in the church. Please include the following:

- Praise God that we have a closing date on the Floral Ave building (Friday morning). Please pray that everything goes smoothly!
- Pray for the Christmas Store this weekend. If you'd like to sign up to serve, [click here](#).

You may want to use this to close your time of prayer:

*Lord free us from our sins and make us whole. Hear our prayers, and prepare us to celebrate the incarnation of your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

**ENGAGE (10 MINUTES)**

Starter Questions: What was the best Christmas gift you ever received?

## **REFLECTION AND STUDY (30-35 MINUTES)**

*In December we are going to be looking at the genealogy of Jesus.*

- 1.) Read Genesis 38:11-30. What stands out to you as challenging, significant or confusing?
- 2.) The backdrop to this story has to do with the law of levirate marriage (from the Latin *levir*, “brother-in-law”). Read Deuteronomy 25:5-6. What do you think is the purpose of this law? What is Judah’s responsibility concerning Tamar? How does he handle it?
- 3.) Read Psalm 146:7-9, Jeremiah 49:11 and Isaiah 1:17. What do we learn about God’s concern for the vulnerable and weak in society?
- 4.) Tim Keller says “*In every society, there are some requirements to experience well-being, functionality, dignity, and inclusion. In ancient society, a spouse and children were crucial.*” What do you think are some of the “requirements” in our society to be successful?
- 5.) How can we as the church (and your community group) care for the poor and vulnerable? What practical steps can you take?
- 6.) On Sunday Josh mentioned Judah’s “blind spots” He is unable to recognize Tamar as she poses as a prostitute. What other things is he blind to in this story?
- 7.) Discuss Judah’s reaction when he finds out about Tamar’s pregnancy. In what ways are we tempted toward severity and hypocrisy? How do we combat against this kind of reaction?
- 8.) How does God use Tamar to change the trajectory of Judah’s life? (*Note that after this Judah returns to his family, cares for his father, becomes a leader among his brothers, and eventually offers to put himself at risk to save his little brother Benjamin*)
- 9.) This is a pretty dark story. Read Matthew 1:1-3. What do you think of the fact that Judah, Tamar and their child Perez are part of Jesus’ family tree?
- 10.) Advent is the season where we prepare our hearts for the breaking in of the Savior. At least part of this process is in assessing the dark parts of our world and our individual lives, and asking for God’s redemption to break in. What parts of your life do you need to see a fresh “breaking in” of God’s grace this Christmas? (*This question can be discussed in the big group, or in smaller groups of men and women and used as the impetus for prayer*)

## **PRAYER (15 MINUTES)**

Break up into smaller groups of men and women. For those who are comfortable, share your applications and pray for one another.