

Genesis—Sunday Morning Series Overview

Embarrassing Ancestors and Our Glorious Hope

Genesis is all about God making an extravagantly gorgeous Creation to declare His glory and the horror of our ancestors' rebellion against His kingly rule. It was written to remind us of our good God's promise to undo all the terror that our treason has wrought. It shows us our ancestors' faltering walk of faith and His faithful care for them, all the while paving the way for the coming King who would deliver us from ourselves and all who oppose our good God. The New Heavens and Earth will perfectly declare His praise.

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:

Run to Jesus with Your Scars. Have you been brutalized by others? God does care about your wounds. Take them to Him.

Rest in Jesus. He is loving and compassionate despite His people's sin. You can trust Him with your past, present, and future.

Pray for Our FCCW Family. Reading about Judah and Tamar we are reminded that we desperately need God's help. So let's continue to ask Him for it together.

The Life of Faith—Hebrews

Rooted in God's Promises & Running to New Jerusalem

The book of *Hebrews* was written to encourage and exhort God's people who were tempted to turn back from the gospel. They were reminded that the promise of salvation comes through the Son who reveals His Father's glory and provides Sabbath rest. This is the basis for the Christian hope as we await the New Jerusalem whose architect has secured our resurrection life in the eternal city of peace.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren
September 29th, 2019

Morning Service:

Genesis 38: 1 – 30

The Gospel According to Tamar

1. God's People Can Be Brutal.
2. God Is Faithful Throughout Time.
3. Jesus Was Brutalized to Bring Us Healing.

God called His people to be a blessing to all the nations, yet many times, like in this episode, we are a cataclysmic failure in this regard. The very people we are supposed to bless instead are abused. God in His mercy is able to work through us, but also against and in spite of us. He demonstrates that He is trustworthy to deliver all of His promises. Nowhere is this more evident than at the cross.

Evening Service:

Hebrews 11: 1 – 7

Moving From Believing in God to Trusting Him

1. Faith Opens Our Eyes to See the Unseen.
2. Faith Opens Our Hearts to Please Our Father.
3. Faith Opens the Door to the New Jerusalem.

Chapter eleven of Hebrews has been called the "Hall of Faith" because it chronicles the faith of our Mothers and Fathers throughout the generations. They are superstars not because of their own accomplishments but because of how by God's grace they trusted in Him.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

As awful as sexual abuse is outside of the Church (like in Gen 34 to Dinah) it is even worse when it takes place within it. Judah demonstrates his own lack of faith in God through his abuse of his daughter-in-law. How do we deal with these difficult passages in Scripture? How do we deal with these realities in our life?

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday AM

READ **Genesis 38:1-30; Deuteronomy 25:5-6**. DISCUSS, how did God's people fail to provide for Tamar? How did God provide for her? How do you deal with disappointment in brothers/sisters? How about with God? REST today as you meditate on God's trustworthiness. PRAY thanking God for His faithfulness to His promises.

Sunday PM

READ tonight's passage: **Hebrews 11:1-7**. DISCUSS, What are some of the things God uses faith to accomplish in our lives? PRAISE God for His gift to us in Christ.

Monday

READ **Genesis 38:1-11**. DISCUSS, How seriously does God view sin? We are usually willing to see it in others, but not in ourselves. Do we view it as seriously? Why or why not? PRAY for God to convict us of our sin. Ask Him to reveal to us more deeply how Christ is the only answer to our wickedness.

Tuesday

READ **Genesis 38:12-19**. DISCUSS, Why do we tend to be so ill-equipped to deal with passages like this? How does Judah sin against Tamar? Against God? Against his wife? REPENT of any sexual sin with which you are engaged. Whether it is pornography, sex with someone not your spouse, or lustful thoughts, stop, and turn to Christ for forgiveness. PRAY, "Lord, forgive us for ways trust our own efforts more than You. Teach us to trust You fully and completely."

Wednesday

READ **Genesis 38:20-26**. DISCUSS, What pattern do God's people in the line of promise have in seeking to have children? Why are they so often in opposition to God's commands? Why does this seem to be so difficult? PRAY, Ask God to enable us to trust Him in difficult circumstances.

Thursday

READ **Genesis 38:27-30; Ruth 4:18-22; Luke 3:33**. DISCUSS, What is the significance of Perez? How does Tamar receive a double blessing? How has God blessed you in spite of your sin? PRAY, "Jesus, thank You for Your grace and forgiveness. Teach us to obey You always."

Friday

READ **Genesis 38:1-30**. DISCUSS, What has God been teaching from these passages this week? PRAY thanking the Lord for His faithfulness to us.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow. Do what you can *today* so that you will be less rushed tomorrow.

READ **Genesis 39:1-23**. Come to worship tomorrow expecting to hear from God through His Word and to learn more about our God together. Pray for God's glory to be more and more manifested in the Woodstock area. Pray that He will use us to extend His grace as we celebrate it together.

Deuteronomy 25: 5 – 6

"If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the dead man shall not be married outside the family to a stranger. Her husband's brother shall go in to her and take her as his wife and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her. And the first son whom she bears shall succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel."