

God's surprising plan to bless the world

Genesis 38 – God's plan will succeed despite human wickedness.

God can miraculously change sinners.

Wickedness - Read Genesis 38:1-11

1. What was wrong about who Judah married? _____
(Read what happened when Abraham wanted a wife for his son Isaac in Genesis 24:1-4.)
2. How are two of his sons described? _____
3. How would you describe what Judah did to Tamar in v11? _____



God's people so far - Read Genesis 38:12-19

4. Remember, we're following the story of God's people – the ones through whom God will bless the world. What do you think - does Judah act like God's people?

Change - Read Genesis 38:20-30

5. Why is Judah's friend not able to deliver the payment of goat? _____
6. Why does Judah want to have Tamar burned to death? _____
7. When he realises that actually *he's* in the wrong, what does he say about Tamar (v26)?

God's plans. God can change us.

8. Have a little look at Matthew 1:3 – Tamar and her son Perez are ancestors of Jesus. In what ways is this turn of events surprising? How does it show us that God can keep his promise about blessing through his people?

9. How would you describe the change in Judah? _____

God changes Judah and his life dramatically. Before, his children were called 'wicked' but now his children are in the line of Jesus. Before, he behaved shamefully but now he behaves with humility and honestly.



Read Ephesians 1:13-14 – What happens when we first believe in Jesus' death and resurrection? We're 'sealed' with the Holy Spirit. In other words, the Holy Spirit comes to live in us permanently, guaranteeing our place in heaven, and changing us to become more like Jesus. Judah's radical change was because God changed him.

1. What was change in Judah so important? (Think about the promises God made to Abraham about people.)
1. What kind of change might a Christian expect to see in their lives? Why might change be difficult?

Genesis 38

u g k v t c s b g z e u a c t
r d n a z e l e u t w i n s n
c u m i h p i z v r k f o j a
q a r t r t e d r l n z u u n
r c o p q a x e y q t e x d g
i l t s u o e t h g i r d a e
c v a o s p h h i s f a q h r
b s o c l t e s s w f h p z p
u p g x a f f r k f a d b l j
q s h e l a h c e o t r r f a
q g d b x u l k n z s z k o m
e o g l c n p a c j g z i p c
c h g v w v n g b r b q u b h
e z h n d e v b m t j q h w u
w o d i w n m a l i l a e s t

Judah

sheep

burned

Er

seal

death

Onan

cord

righteous

Shelah

staff

twins

Tamar

clothes

Perez

widow

goat

Zerah

shearing

pregnant