

Sermon Questions for Life Groups
The Gospel According to Genesis
Shocking & Surprising Interlude: Genesis 38
Pastor John Mahaffey
Sunday, November 22, 2015

These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions or family or personal devotions

1. Someone you know is acting a lot like Judah. How would you counsel him/her from a Christian perspective?
2. In what appears to be an ever-declining society, how can we encourage/help those around us to not be molded by the world?
3. Read Genesis 38:1, Genesis 38:20, Proverbs 12:26 and 1 Corinthians 15:33. How does Judah's choice of friends influence him for the worse? Why do you answer this way? Share personal experience.
4. Read Genesis 13:12, 14:12 and 19:1, paying special attention to Lot's geographical position in relation to the city of Sodom, keeping in mind where he started and that the city gates were often where the men of influence in a city would discuss important matters and business that related to that city.
 - How does Lot, someone who has been with Abram and experienced God's provision, gradually move away from God?
 - How is Lot's decline similar to the decline of Judah? (Genesis
 - How is Lot's decline different than that of Judah?
5. Have you ever seen what appears to be the judgement of God in the life of another person?
6. Judah's two sons Er and Onan were killed by God because they were wicked in God's sight. But Judah, the central figure of sinfulness in this story, was spared according to God's grace. How do we explain that God's amazing grace is bestowed upon people of His choosing?
7. How have you experienced God's grace in your life?
8. Read Psalm 89:14 - How do God's attributes of righteousness and justice co-exist with love (mercy) & faithfulness?

9. How do you keep pure and able to testify to God's grace in our pagan world?

10. Read Jesus' prayer for His disciples in John 17:6-26. Discuss different strategies for us as believers to be able live in the world and yet not be part of it. What are the challenges for you personally in your own situation?

11. We learned that 'using' a shrine prostitute was the equivalent of worshipping Ba'al. Can you think of present day worldly practices that worship someone other than the One True God? (consider yoga, others)

12. How is the story of Judah and Tamar a warning to believers? How does this story provide comfort about sin and forgiveness?

13. What hope does this chapter give you that God's purposes will be carried out?

14. Read II Corinthians 5:11 – 21, about our role as ministers of reconciliation, and perhaps share any specific applications to reach out to certain people this Christmas as a start.

15. We were encouraged to embrace all nations for your saving God, yet the events of the world sometimes make it difficult to do this. In view of the events of past weeks, discuss our role in reaching out and welcoming all nations when they immigrate to Canada. Are you willing?