



Small Group Sermon Response Questions - Week of 7/13/14
Genesis 38 - "Judah Went Down from His Brothers and Turned Aside..."
(*God works graciously through the sins of His people to accomplish what He has purposed for His glory and their good.*)

- 6:30 to 6:45 — Meet & Greet / Conversation
 - 6:45 to 7:30 — Sermon Response Time
 - 7:30... — Smaller Groups for Accountability and Prayer

1. Act #1: The Wages of Wickedness (vv. 1-11)
 - a. Does God still kill people for their sin like He did in this passage? Consider Acts 5:1-11, 1 Corinthians 11:27-32, and James 5:13-20, and discuss.
 - b. Though this passage is not specifically addressing birth control in general, does it contain any wisdom that can guide us in this regard?
2. Act #2: A Desperate Deception (vv. 12-23)
 - a. Reflect on Tamar's certainty that Judah would be snared by her ploy of prostitution. How should we be challenged by this in regard to our testimony with others? Consider Proverbs 22:1 and 1 Peter 2:9-12. (Side note: linguistic clarification of 1 Thess. 5:22-23)
 - b. How can Judah's foolishness here be instructive to us on the destructive power of sinful desires? Conversely, how was his experience with these desires *different* from ours?
3. Act #3: An Astonishing Aftermath (vv. 24-30)
 - a. In this chapter and in Deuteronomy 25, we see God affirming a custom/law that was designed to care for the less fortunate. How should we respond? Consider Ezekiel 16:49-50, and the fact that perfect righteousness and justice are very difficult in a world of sinners.
 - b. Revisit the Christ-centered nature of this story's outcome, from Judah's apparent heart change to the identity of the children of his and Tamar's immorality. Perhaps revisit Genesis 49:10-11, Matthew 1:1-6 and Revelation 5:1-5.
4. What other initial reflections, questions, or evaluation do you have regarding the sermon? What have you seen of God, yourself, the gospel, and/or the life of faith? What has God been teaching you in your own personal study lately?
5. "Hypocrisy is so stupid that, while it flees from the disgrace of the world, it is careless about the judgment of God." (Calvin) What sin do you need to confess tonight? What would it look like for you to "stop running from the skeletons in your closet?"