

The Back Story

The story of Judah and Tamar is probably not one we would have mentioned if we were the ones telling the back story of Jesus's ancestors. However, many times God's story highlights the unlikely and the undeserving.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. As the holidays approach, what's one word to describe the dynamic of your extended family? What makes you say that?
- 2. What ran through your mind as you listened to the tale of Judah and Tamar?
- 3. Not every person in Jesus's lineage is mentioned in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus. If some names went unlisted, why would Matthew include embarrassing stories like Judah and Tamar in Jesus's genealogy? Why wouldn't he just skip those names?
- 4. Is it difficult... or has it ever been difficult... for you to acknowledge that you are a sinner? Is that offensive? If so, why?
- 5. Does it bother you that Jesus invited Matthew to follow him without requiring Matthew to change? Repent of his sin?