



Sermon Series: “Story”

Series Description: As we set out to examine the theme of ‘story’ over these twelve weeks, we’ll be zooming in on twelve well-known Old Testament characters. In these real life, historical stories, we will see the way God takes lives filled with small successes and great failures and, as a master craftsman, turns them into a grand masterpiece of divine origin. We will also see that all of our stories and all the stories that make up our city are no less a part of God’s story than any other.

Story of the Week: Tamar

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Sermon Summary: The story of Tamar has to be in the top-5 craziest stories in the whole Bible. Just as we’re introduced to the hero Joseph, we get this strange and unsettling tale of loss and desperation involving a widow (Tamar) and one of Jacob’s 12 sons (Judah). It seems out of place but it actually serves to introduce a concept that God uses over and over again. Those Tamar is desperate to save herself in her station, God is desperate to save her and all of humanity. In fact, our desperation is no match against God’s redemptive love and kindness.

1 – Sermon response

How did God speak to you through the sermon and the story of Tamar? What was something new you learned about the story or a takeaway from the story?

2 – Seeing the tension of the passage.

In reading Tamar’s story in Genesis 38, how would you characterize her situation? What makes her situation so desperate that she would be willing to go to such lengths?

Share an experience or circumstance in which you were in a desperate situation, in over your head, and you either considered or followed through with an immoral route to save yourself.

3 – Seeing the tension in our lives

Why do we believe **we have to** save ourselves? Why do we believe **we can** save ourselves?

Why do we believe that it’s **other people** who need saving and not us?

4 – How does the Gospel relieve the tension?

What do you think your life would look like if you stopped trying to make your life better and, instead, fully received the loving kindness of God through Jesus? How would that affect your relationship with God and with others?

5 – What are our takeaways?

What are some takeaways from today’s sermon?

Many of us will be around friends and family this week to celebrate Thanksgiving. Who’s one person you’ll be with to whom you can show God’s love and kindness?

All Church Announcements

- **Christmas On the Street:** Resonate is here for our city, to show God's love through us. This season we have an opportunity to let our unhoused friends on the streets know that they are seen and loved by God. You can fulfill their Christmas wish-list and/or come together to sort the gifts or make Winter Kits! It's a great way for MCs to serve as a group! Here are the details: www.resonatemovement.org/christmasonthestreet
- **Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, there will be NO THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICE this week.**