

Tamar

Begin your study with prayer. Confess any sin before you enter into studying God's Word.

Day 1

Optional: What did you apply from last week's lesson?

1. Read 2 Samuel 13:1-23 and make as many general observations about Tamar as you can. Please include how God describes her, her family relations, and what other people are mentioned in her story.
2. According to the narrative, who is Amnon? At the beginning of the narrative, what is his attitude toward Tamar (v.1)? Were his feelings toward her pure? How do you know; what does the text infer in verse 2?
3. According to verse 3, who is Jonadab? What counsel did he give Amnon regarding his feelings toward Tamar (v.5)? Was it godly advice? Did Amnon heed or refuse his counsel (v.6)? What lesson can be gleaned from this situation when it comes to evaluating advice?

Begin your study with prayer. Confess any sin before you enter into studying God's Word.

Day 2

4. According to verses 7-9, David unwittingly agreed to Amnon's request. Do you feel this was a lack of discernment on David's part? Why or why not? How did Tamar respond to her father's request? Did she suspect wrongdoing?

5. How does Amnon's evil plan unfold in verses 9-14? Think through each person's role and what Amnon used as a gateway to gain trust and then access to Tamar's body. What relationship of trust among Tamar, David, and Amnon was violated? What are some things you observe from this text that would be important to remind yourself of and to teach your own children about?

6. Sexual abuse, in particular incestuous sexual abuse, can do incredible damage to a person. Think through some responses women you know have had as a result of experiencing this same kind of abuse. Compare Tamar's experience to what the women you are thinking of may have experienced (or what you may have experienced). What is similar and/or different?

7. What were Tamar's emotional and intellectual responses to: Amnon's advances (vv.12-13)? after the rape (v.20)? Is this a contrast to how your friend or you responded to sexual abuse? If so, how?

Begin your study with prayer. Confess any sin before you enter into studying God's Word.

Day 4

14. According to verses 15-17, how did Amnon react toward Tamar after the attack? The word, "woman," doesn't appear in the Hebrew text. The word used in verse 17 is *zeh*, meaning, "this" or "that." What does this expose about Amnon's heart from the very beginning?

15. In verses 18-20 Tamar displays symbolic actions to portray how she feels. Describe what each action represents and/or what emotion it expresses.

She put ashes on her head (Esther 4:1, Joshua 7:6):

She tore her robe, which has a name in the Hebrew implying that it was colorful and fancy – of royal distinction – and a mark of her rank and desirability as a virgin daughter of the king:

She put her hand on her head (Jeremiah 2:37, Genesis 24:65):

She was crying aloud (In the Hebrew, "crying aloud" is one word: *zaw-ak'* A primitive root; to *shriek* (from anguish or danger); by analogy (as a herald) to *announce* or *convene* publicly: - assemble, call (together), (make a) cry (out), come with such a company, gather (together), cause to be proclaimed:

16. Think through David's and Absalom's responses to Tamar's situation (v.21-22). What actions could they have taken to help her soul to heal? How might her story have been different if they had approached her with eyes of grace? What would have been some important things to say to her that would have expressed God's love toward her?

17. Read Isaiah 61:1-3. What are some important things we learn about God from this passage? What hope does this bring to someone who has sexual abuse in his/her background?

Begin your study with prayer. Confess any sin before you enter into studying God's Word.

Day 5

18. One of the most powerful truths that you, as a believer, can remember even when sexual abuse is part of the past, is never forgetting who you are today. Remember, you are in Christ (Colossians 1:27)! Remember, you are God's workmanship, which He prepared beforehand (Ephesians 2:10)!

Read over the six truths below along with the Scriptures associated with them. After each truth, write a short prayer of thanksgiving to God based on the verses.

- I have Christ's perfect record put to my account (2 Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 3:13).

- No longer is there punishment due to me (Romans 8:1-4).

- I can rest in the grace of God and my standing before Him regardless of my performance. My position is based solely on the work of Jesus, and I have nothing to boast about. (Remembering this is an antidote to pride.) I deserve only God's wrath but have received grace (Ephesians 2:8).

- Jesus bore my wrath on the cross (Romans 5:9). (Remembering this promotes a spirit of thankfulness and a hatefulness of my sin as I think about the great lengths God took to rescue me.)

- I am God the Father's child and a joint heir with Jesus, His bride -- one with Him as a recipient of His magnificent, never-ending love (1 John 3:1, Romans 8:37-39).

- As I recognize and dwell on the Gospel it motivates me to fight against my sin and fervently obey God out of love for my God and Savior (John 14:15, Romans 6:1, Galatians 2:20).

19. How does the Gospel intersect your life today? Do these verses give you a sense of hope? If so, why? Remember to preach or rehearse the Gospel to yourself each day.

Resources: *Sexual Abuse: Beauty for Ashes* by Robert W. Kellmen, *Six Gospel Truths* by Robert Somerville