

# Study Guide

## The Women Ancestors of Jesus — Part 1: Tamar

by Nollie Malabuyo

**Scripture Readings:** Genesis 37: 25-28, 38, 49:8-12; Ruth 4:7-22; Matthew 1:1-6

1. *Read Genesis 37:25-28.* What was Judah's role in Joseph being sold as a slave?

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2. *Read Genesis 38:1-5.* Where did Judah go to take a wife? Was Judah's marriage acceptable to Abraham's family line? (Genesis 24:1-4; 28:1)

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3. *Read verses 6-11.* Judah had three sons, and Er the oldest son married Tamar. Why did Er and the second son die? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why did the two other sons have to marry Tamar, after each of the two oldest son died? (Deut 25:5-10) \_\_\_\_\_

Why did Judah refuse to give Shelah, his third son, as a husband to Tamar? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why did Tamar not marry a Canaanite like herself? \_\_\_\_\_

4. *Read verses 12-23.* What drove Tamar to allow sexual relationship with Judah, her father-in-law? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why did Tamar ask Judah for a pledge before she agreed? What pledge did he break? \_\_\_\_\_

5. *Read verses 24-26.* What was Judah's reaction to the news that Tamar was pregnant by immorality? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why did he say "She is more righteous than I" after he finds out that Tamar was pregnant by him? \_\_\_\_\_

6. *Read Genesis 49:8-12.* Did Judah truly repent of his evil deeds? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. *Read Genesis 38:27-30.* Even though Zerah came out first, Perez is considered the firstborn (Gen 46:12; Num 26:20). What is the significance of this small detail in the twins' birth? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. *Read Ruth 4:9-12, 19-22; Matthew 1:1-6.* How is Tamar related to Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. In addition to Tamar, who are the women included in Jesus' genealogy? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Who among these women are Gentiles? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ What kind of reputations do these women have? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. What is the significance of these features in Jesus' genealogy in the history of salvation?

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\_\_\_\_\_ Compare Joseph's and Judah's characters.  
How important is it that Jesus came from Judah's — not from Joseph's — line? (Gen 49:8-12) \_\_\_\_\_

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