

Introduction to the series:

Stories They Don't Teach In Sunday School

Many Bible stories are “not rated for family viewing.” That is because God never attempts to cover up the realities of the human condition. On the contrary, He makes a point of focusing on them. The Bible isn't just a history book; every word preserved in its pages is meant to teach us something. And as the saying goes, “mistakes are often the best teachers.”

There are many aspects of the Bible that are not supposed to be a feel-good bedtime story. It's supposed to make us question who we are and what choices we are making. It should cause us to ask: How could they have handled this better? What might I do in a similar position? What darker aspects of human nature this is asking me to face, and what should I do about that?

We can't fight evil unless we are willing to stare it in the face, and the first place we need to look for it is in the mirror.

Pastor Stephen

Stories They Don't Teach In Sunday School

Week 5

Calvary Baptist Church
Stories They Don't Teach In Sunday School
4G Series 2021
www.cbcfamily.net/4g.html

Introduction To The 4G Guide

GATHER – GOD – GROUP – GIVE

It's important that we *GATHER* each week as a church family. Still, God has so much more for us! He wants us to take what He's teaching and apply it to our lives. This is the heart of the 4G Guides. These guides are written to encourage you in your personal *GOD TIME* and in your small *GROUPS*. They are designed to help you understand what God is teaching and apply it to your daily life. Understanding and application allows you to then take what God is teaching and *GIVE* it to others.

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture references are from the *English Standard Version* (ESV Text Edition: 2016) Bible.





How To Use The 4G Guide

Each week is divided into four sections:



Gathering Time

God calls us to corporate worship. On Sunday mornings we gather (in person or online) to worship, hear God's message, and be challenged to apply His word. This booklet includes weekly sermon guides.



God Time

Personal worship is vital to the Christian walk, so we have written five daily devotionals for each weekly topic. This is your time to meet with God one-on-one in a guided devotional format. Once the devotional time is finished, we encourage you to pray, seeking direction for the day.



Group Time

We learn from one another! Each week, either on Sundays or at various other times, 4G Groups meet to dig deeper into the weekly material. This booklet features weekly lesson outlines in a "three-thirds" discipleship format. In addition, links to short video guides, sermon recaps, and other helpful resources are posted on our 4G web page. *



Family Time

Family worship glorifies God. To help, we have created simple, once-a-week devotionals just for families. In addition to the weekly outline, video or story guide links may be posted on our 4G web page* to help get the conversations flowing.

* 4G Groups, video links, resources, and 4G Guides are posted weekly on our 4G web page: www.cbcbfamily.net/4g.html.



THE 4G GUIDE

The 4G Group Time 3-Step Encouragement Process

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:23-25

1. Participants partner-up to ask five short and simple questions. Partners should be of the same gender. If there is an odd number, triplets are OK but need to work swiftly.
2. Partners ask each other these five questions:

	"Did you spend specific personal time in the BIBLE <u>each day</u> this past week?"	These are "Yes" or "No" questions.
	"Did you spend specific time in PRAYER <u>each day</u> this past week? – not just for meals"	Any hesitations or "Well..." responses are circled "No."
	"Did you do something specific to show Godly LOVE to someone this past week?"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If so, the partner briefly shares the encounter(s) with their partner and, on the provided line, writes the name(s) of the person(s) they showed love to, shared the Gospel with, or disciplined. • If not, leave the line blank.
	"Did you intentionally share the GOSPEL with anyone this past week?"	
	"Did you DISCIPLE anyone this past week?" (E.g.: Sharing any of the God, Group, or Family Times)	

3. To finish, each partner prays for the other. No matter how or what the partner has done over the past week, this is an intentional prayer of **encouragement** for the coming week!



Gathering Notes

Stories They Don't Teach In Sunday School

Genesis 38:11, 17-18, & 24-26

How Will You _____?

- What _____ Do You Need To _____ With?

WEEK 5 - JUDAH AND TAMAR

God Time: Day 1 – Judah and His Boys



Do you know the story of Judah and Tamar? Judah was one of Jacob's twelve sons and was the father of the tribe of Judah - the tribe that Jesus was descended from. To understand the story involving his daughter-in-law, Tamar, we start with Judah's sons.

Tamar had married Er, Judah's oldest son. Er was so wicked that God put him to death. In keeping with Jewish practice, Tamar married Er's younger brother, Onan. This would keep the family line going and pass along Er's inheritance. (This practice was called a Levirate marriage.) But God caused Onan to die for his great sinfulness also. See the pattern of sin?



Read Genesis 38:11

Then Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, "Remain a widow in your father's house, till Shelah my son grows up"—for he feared that he would die, like his brothers. So Tamar went and remained in her father's house.

Where did Judah tell Tamar to go?



Circle what Judah told Tamar to wait for.

Why? What was Judah afraid of?



Yes! Judah tells Tamar to go back to her father's house and wait until his youngest son, Shelah, grows up. Judah wants to get rid of her. He is afraid that something is wrong with Tamar that is causing his sons to die. In reality, it was their own wickedness that the Lord was judging!

Judah was more concerned about Tamar possibly being bad luck than the real problem: his son's evil hearts.

Judah needed to take the blinders off. He needed to take responsibility for the prevalence of sin in his family and deal with it.



As it would have been for Judah, it's important we deal with our hearts! Pray and ask God to help you deal honestly with your heart this week.

In your prayers, ask yourself: Do I guide myself and others away from sinfulness?

Got Time: Day 2 – Judah and Tamar



Judah's encounter with Tamar gets even more complicated! Shelah has now grown up and Judah has not given Tamar in marriage to him. Tamar takes matters into her own hands. She hears of Judah coming into her father's town to shear his sheep and decides to force Judah to provide children for her. Her plan? She disguises herself as a prostitute and waits. Judah "partakes" but never recognizes her. And, since he has no money, he leaves his ring, cord, and staff as collateral, promising future payment. But about three months later, he gets a surprise we don't learn about in Sunday School.



Read Genesis 38:24

About three months later Judah was told, "Tamar your daughter-in-law has been immoral. Moreover, she is pregnant by immorality." And Judah said, "Bring her out, and let her be burned."



According to this verse what is her sin? _____

What does Judah want to do to Tamar? _____



Read Genesis 38:25-26

²⁵As she was being brought out, she sent word to her father-in-law, "By the man to whom these belong, I am pregnant." And she said, "Please identify whose these are, the signet and the cord and the staff." ²⁶Then Judah identified them and said, "She is more righteous than I, since I did not give her to my son Shelah." And he did not know her again.

In this "gotcha" moment, Judah realizes that he is the father of the child.

Underline his words in verse 26. (Notice, he doesn't call her a righteous woman, he just says "*she is more righteous than*" he is.)

Tamar had twin boys. One was named Perez— a direct ancestor of both King David and of Jesus. The story is a good reminder that even in a mess, God can bring good from it.



Identify what messy situation you need to give to God so that He can bring good from it. Give it to Him now.

WEEK 5 - JUDAH AND TAMAR

God Time: Day 3 – Your Sin Will Catch Up to You



Like Judah, our sin will catch up to us. Judah seemed to think that he could do whatever he wanted. He didn't give godly counsel to his sons, he sent his daughter-in-law, Tamar, away without providing for her, and then slept with a prostitute — who turned out to be Tamar! The question for us is, do we think we can get away with sin?



Read Psalm 69:5 (NKJV)
O God, You know my foolishness; And my sins are not hidden from You.

Rewrite this psalm in your own words:



Read Isaiah 5:2
But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.



Sin doesn't go unnoticed by God, and it damages our relationship with Him. But there is hope! What sin are you hiding from God? Deal with it now.

God Time: Day 4 – Light or Darkness?



We know that all of mankind sins. But we have choices. We can set our sights on obedience, and we can deal with sin when it happens. Instead of concealing our sins in darkness, we should ask God to shine His light in our hearts and reveal any sin in our lives.



Read Proverbs 28:13
Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.



Memorize 1 John 1:9
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

What step of obedience will you take today in response to these verses?



God Time: Day 5 – Truth or Lies? Sacrifice or Selfishness?

This side of heaven we will struggle with sin. Confessing and repenting of our sins pleases God! Instead of lying about our sin and pretending it doesn't matter, we can face it with the truth of Jesus. We need our Savior and we get the awesome privilege of pointing others to Him.



Read Peter's words in Acts 3:19
Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out.

What does Peter say needs to happen so that "your sins may be blotted out?"



Repentance means that a person turns around 180° — directly away from sin and toward God. Without repentance, we continue moving away from God and toward sin. This would be embracing a lie and turning from the truth.

Another aspect of turning from sin is embracing a life of sacrifice. In Judah and Tamar's story, Judah cared more about pleasing himself than how his actions impacted Tamar. He first cast her aside and later used her for his own pleasure. God redeemed the situation, but in his selfishness, Judah had made a mess. We can be spared of that!



Read Philippians 2:3-5
³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.

In verse 3, what are we supposed to "count others" as?



Circle the words that show how we do this in verses 4 and 5.

What one thing can you do today to put others' interests above your own?





Remember:

When we're busy helping others, we have less time to sin.

WEEK 5 - JUDAH AND TAMAR



Group Time

Leaders win when everyone participates.

ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1



Y / N



Y / N







LOOK BACK:

Point: *True saving faith brings life that produces fruit bearing the power to bring a little heaven on earth!*

- Review last week's lesson. Briefly share your coming to faith story and about the fruit it has born.

Question: Talk about a time when the "truth" about a person's life (celebrity or otherwise) became public. How did you react?

LOOK UP: Watch this week's Group Guide video on our 4G web page.

Recap: Many Bible stories are "not rated for family viewing." Part of this may be cultural, but God never attempts to cover up the realities of the human condition. We find one of these stories in Genesis 38. The story of Judah and Tamar.

One of the worst things that happens is when we think we are getting away with our sin – no one got hurt, it didn't cost anything, we didn't get caught – and we go about our life like nothing ever happened.

But God is a God of light and truth and because He loves His children, He will shine the light. We have a choice in how we will live; in light or darkness, hiding our sin or confessing and dealing with it.

LOOK IN: Discussion Questions

- What does hiding our sin do to our relationship with God?
- What does hiding our sin do to our relationships with others?
- How does genuinely caring about others impact our desire to sin?
- Explain practically – give examples – how we can deal with sin.

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: *Your sin will always catch up with you. Deal with it now, before it's too late!*

What Sin Do You Need To Deal With?

- Memorize these two statements:
 - This side of heaven we will never be perfect; if we could be, we wouldn't need Jesus.*
 - The goal isn't to be perfect; the goal is to deal with our sin, so it does not take over our life.*

- What sin(s) do you need to deal with?

- No really, what sin(s) do you need to deal with?

- How will you deal with it? What is your plan? Who will help you?

Pray for the members of your group as each of you deals with this!



Family Time

Main Idea:

Your sin will always catch up with you.



Key Verse: Luke 12:2

Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.

Set it Up:

Few things are funnier than watching kids be sneaky and getting away with things. Enjoy a few of the clips on this video!



Watch: Week 5 Video

This week's video is on the playlist of the CBC YouTube channel or go to cbcfamily.net and click on 4G Guides for the video link under the Family Guide section.



Ask:

Have you ever looked over your shoulder while doing something, hoping no one was looking?

- How about something small like taking food from the pantry when Mom said no snacks before dinner?
- Or maybe something bigger like taking a thing from a store you needed but couldn't pay for?
- A lot of times we justify what we're doing because we need something, we think we're doing something good, or we're sure no one will ever find out.

What does the key verse say about the things we cover up or hide?



Encourage:

The funny part about the videos we watched is that most of those kids knew they were doing things they shouldn't! You could see it in their reactions when they got caught!

Every day is full of choices and it's the same with our main idea: you have a choice with sin.

- Darkness or Light? You can choose to hide your sin or confess it to Jesus and let Him help you deal with it.
- Lies or Truth? You can pretend it didn't happen or admit that it did and ask to be forgiven.
- Selfishness or Sacrifice? You can care about your own desires or you can care about how your actions impact others.



Family Activity:

Grab your Bibles and play a Sword Drill game - its kind of like a quickdraw! Each one holds their sword (Bible!) in the air and a parent calls out a Bible passage. Then lower your swords and the first to find the verse gets to read it. Then, discuss as a family which choice the person in the verse made.

Genesis 4:9 = Lies or Truth?

Genesis 37:26 = Darkness or Light?

Ruth 1:15-16 = Selfishness or Sacrifice?

Jeremiah 23:25 = Is it possible to hide anything from the Lord?