



*This guide will help you facilitate a clear understanding of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truth to our lives together. You should spend at least half your time discussing questions that are application focused. Look at the Big Idea and What your CG Must Take Away sections at the beginning of the guide to keep the discussion focused.*

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## Introduction and Series Overview

The aim of the Redeeming Relationship series is to help us understand the various roles we play relationally, and how each of these is to be done under God empowered by the gospel. This gives us a proper framework for both redeeming broken relationships and relating to others, and how to generally relate to church members in a way that builds them up. It also helps us understand our own hearts and each other in relationships so that we can be compassionate and clear with them, as well as specific relationships that people find themselves in family, marriage, kids, work, etc.

## Big idea

Shame has the ability to prevent us from opening our lives to others which destroys relationships. In order to be real and vulnerable before others we need our shame covered. Jesus' relates to our shame in his work on the cross, and through the cross he overcomes our shame

## What your CG must take away from this study

For your group to see how shame hinders all of their relationships, to bring their shame to Jesus who heals our shame, and to grow in vulnerability with one another.

Ice breaker

Q. How do we act differently with people we feel closest with than when we are with others?

### **Read 2 Samuel 13:1-29**

<sup>1</sup> Now Absalom, David's son, had a beautiful sister, whose name was Tamar. And after a time Amnon, David's son, loved her. <sup>2</sup> And Amnon was so tormented that he made himself ill because of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible to Amnon to do anything to her. <sup>3</sup> But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother. And Jonadab was a very crafty man. <sup>4</sup> And he said to him, "O son of the king, why are you so haggard morning after morning? Will you not tell me?" Amnon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister." <sup>5</sup> Jonadab said to him, "Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill. And when your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Let my sister Tamar come and give me bread to eat, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat

it from her hand.”<sup>6</sup> So Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill. And when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, “Please let my sister Tamar come and make a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat from her hand.”

<sup>7</sup> Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, “Go to your brother Amnon's house and prepare food for him.”

<sup>8</sup> So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house, where he was lying down. And she took dough and kneaded it and made cakes in his sight and baked the cakes. <sup>9</sup> And she took the pan and emptied it out before him, but he refused to eat. And Amnon said, “Send out everyone from me.” So everyone went out from him. <sup>10</sup> Then Amnon said to Tamar, “Bring the food into the chamber, that I may eat from your hand.” And Tamar took the cakes she had made and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother. <sup>11</sup> But when she brought them near him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, “Come, lie with me, my sister.” <sup>12</sup> She answered him, “No, my brother, do not violate me, for such a thing is not done in Israel; do not do this outrageous thing. <sup>13</sup> As for me, where could I carry my shame? And as for you, you would be as one of the outrageous fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king, for he will not withhold me from you.” <sup>14</sup> But he would not listen to her, and being stronger than she, he violated her and lay with her.

<sup>15</sup> Then Amnon hated her with very great hatred, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, “Get up! Go!” <sup>16</sup> But she said to him, “No, my brother, for this wrong in sending me away is greater than the other that you did to me.” But he would not listen to her. <sup>17</sup> He called the young man who served him and said, “Put this woman out of my presence and bolt the door after her.” <sup>18</sup> Now she was wearing a long robe with sleeves, for thus were the virgin daughters of the king dressed. So his servant put her out and bolted the door after her. <sup>19</sup> And Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the long robe that she wore. And she laid her hand on her head and went away, crying aloud as she went.

<sup>20</sup> And her brother Absalom said to her, “Has Amnon your brother been with you? Now hold your peace, my sister. He is your brother; do not take this to heart.” So Tamar lived, a desolate woman, in her brother Absalom's house. <sup>21</sup> When King David heard of all these things, he was very angry. <sup>22</sup> But Absalom spoke to Amnon neither good nor bad, for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had violated his sister Tamar.

### **Amnon**

1a. Why did Amnon plot against his sister?

1b. After he raped Tamar, why did Amnon end up hating his sister “greater than the love with which he had loved her”?

1c. Amnon’s shame is brought about by his own sin. How is Amnon’s shame expressed?

1d. How do we tend to try to cover up our shame with anger, hatred or denial?

### **Tamar**

2a. Tamar is completely innocent in Amnon’s evil act. What is the result of Amnon’s sin on Tamar?

2b. Shame often affects innocent people who are sinned against. How has shame affected Tamar's life? How did she respond to her shame?

2c. How do we tend to isolate ourselves to hide our shame from others?

**Read 2 Samuel 13:23-33**

<sup>23</sup> After two full years Absalom had sheepshearers at Baal-hazor, which is near Ephraim, and Absalom invited all the king's sons. <sup>24</sup> And Absalom came to the king and said, "Behold, your servant has sheepshearers. Please let the king and his servants go with your servant." <sup>25</sup> But the king said to Absalom, "No, my son, let us not all go, lest we be burdensome to you." He pressed him, but he would not go but gave him his blessing. <sup>26</sup> Then Absalom said, "If not, please let my brother Amnon go with us." And the king said to him, "Why should he go with you?" <sup>27</sup> But Absalom pressed him until he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him. <sup>28</sup> Then Absalom commanded his servants, "Mark when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, 'Strike Amnon,' then kill him. Do not fear; have I not commanded you? Be courageous and be valiant." <sup>29</sup> So the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and each mounted his mule and fled. <sup>30</sup> While they were on the way, news came to David, "Absalom has struck down all the king's sons, and not one of them is left." <sup>31</sup> Then the king arose and tore his garments and lay on the earth. And all his servants who were standing by tore their garments. <sup>32</sup> But Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother, said, "Let not my lord suppose that they have killed all the young men, the king's sons, for Amnon alone is dead. For by the command of Absalom this has been determined from the day he violated his sister Tamar. <sup>33</sup> Now therefore let not my lord the king so take it to heart as to suppose that all the king's sons are dead, for Amnon alone is dead."

**Absalom**

3a. Sin often has effects on third parties. How does Absalom respond to Amnon's shameful crime upon his sister?

3b. Why did Absalom not confront his brother when he hated Amnon for what he has done against Tamar? What do you think is harbouring within Absalom?

3c. Absalom's response is about more than revenge. His family has been deeply shamed and he must restore honour. Why is Absalom's response to shame wrong?

3d. What are ways that we try to restore honour when we have suffered losses?

**David**

4a. How does David respond to the shame within his family?

**2 Samuel 12:7-12**

<sup>7</sup> Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. <sup>8</sup> And I gave you your master's house and your

*master's wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more. <sup>9</sup> Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. <sup>10</sup> Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' <sup>11</sup> Thus says the Lord, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. <sup>12</sup> For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.'"*

4b. How did David deal with the shame of his own sins?

4c. Why do you think David did not take any action against Amnon?

4d. Think about both Tamar and David's responses to shame. How can failing to deal with shame rightly cripple us in life?

4e. How has shame in your own life led you to inaction when you should have done something?

5. Which character did you identify with the most in the passage? Why?

**Read Hebrews 12:1-2.**

*"1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."*

6a. Why was the cross shameful for Jesus?

6b. Why did Jesus choose to die a shameful death?

6c. How does the nature of Jesus' death help us deal with our shame?

7. How does shame affect you?

8. How does being fully known by God help us to overcome shame?

9. How can knowing Jesus has carried your shame, and that you are fully known by God, help you to truly be yourself with your church family?

**Apply Practically**

Break into pairs with someone you know well. Ask your partner how you can pray for them in this areas and pray together.