



Christmas Family Tree

A Record of God's Love

A Record of God's Salvation

A Record of God's Redemption

A Record of God's Power

Journey Group Lesson for "A Record of God's Love" - December 4, 2011

Getting Started

Think of the last time you ate something that you later regretted? What was it? What were the consequences of that decision?

Think of a life decision that perhaps you made in a moment of desperation that you now regret. If appropriate, share that decision and why you regret it with the rest of the group.

Digging Deeper

Read Genesis 38 (also read Deut. 25:5–10 and Lev. 18:15, 20:12 for OT laws associated with this passage)

What happens in this passage?

What bad decisions are made in this story?

Read Matthew 1:1-3a

Why is it surprising to learn that Tamar is included in Jesus' "family tree"?

In this story, God's plan overcomes a couple of evil, selfish sons, a sensual, insensitive old man who unknowingly impregnated his son's wife and a desperate widow who was both deceptive and disgraceful. If God can do that in Genesis 38, what can God do in our lives despite our mistakes?

Read Titus 3:3-7

What hope does it give you to know that you are saved because of what God has done for you through Jesus? Why do you think it is sometimes hard to remember this?

Bringing It Home

What does this story have to do with Christmas? It has everything to do with Christmas. That is why Jesus came to this sick and perverted world. He came to love the unwanted and include them in His forever family. God loves you so much that He came into this world as a poor, helpless baby that would grow up and give his life on a cruel cross and whoever believes in Him will not perish but be a part of his eternal family.

Spend time praying for each other as a group.