

THEME: FACING YOUR GIANTS

KEY VERSE: “But Amnon wouldn’t listen to her, and since he was stronger than she was, he raped her.” 2 Samuel 13:14 (NLT)

MEMORY VERSE(S): “Wisdom will save you from evil people, from those whose words are twisted.” Proverbs 2:12 (NLT)

******Remember to listen to this week’s sermon, review the Sermon Notes Sheet and complete the discussion questions BEFORE attending your Connexion Group!***

INTRODUCTION: The past few months have ushered in an unprecedented level of shock and awareness of the pervasive experience of sexual harassment and sexual assault in workplaces, churches and social circles.

Men abusing their power to take advantage of women is nothing new. David’s son Amnon, raped his half-sister Tamar. This week, we will explore Tamar’s tragic story and discover practical wisdom for outwitting the sexual predator giant.

GROUP LESSON DISCUSSION

1. What was most helpful, encouraging, or challenging from this week’s sermon? This series thus far?
2. Sexual Harassment/Assault Quiz: True or False
 - Sexual harassment complaints are generally false or unjustified.
 - A woman who goes to the home or apartment of a man is implying that she is willing to have sex.
 - Any woman can be raped.
 - Any healthy woman can successfully resist a rapist if she wants to.
 - In most sexual harassment and assault cases, the woman is promiscuous or has a bad reputation.
 - Many women who report sexual harassment or rape are lying because they are angry and want to get back at the man they accuse.

Do most men and women agree on these statements? Why or why not?
Does it matter?

3. Read 2 Samuel 13:1-22. How is Tamar related to Absalom? Why are children living in stepfamilies and with unmarried parents more likely to experience sexual abuse?

What should David have done differently before the rape?

Dead Sea Scrolls and Greek version add to verse 21, "*But he did not punish his son Amnon, because he loved him, for he was his firstborn.*" What should David have done?

What can parents do to reduce the chances of their child being sexually abused in the household?

4. How does Amnon feel about Tamar? Are his feelings due to love or lust?

How can we tell the difference between love and lust?

Read 2 Timothy 2:22. How might having the right companionships help avoid the temptations of "youthful lusts?"

5. Read 2 Samuel 13:23-38, Romans 12:19, Galatians 6:7-8, Mark 4:22. If a perpetrator hasn't yet been exposed or faced consequences, what can we take comfort in knowing?

This week's assignment:

Pray that God will give you the wisdom to outwit the sexual predators that might prey on you, family members, or others you know.