



## God With Us wk2: Scandalized

**Introduction:** We often feel like God is with us when we are on the mountaintops; when things are going really well or we've witnessed something amazing. But the promise of the Incarnation, is that God has come to be with us, wherever we find ourselves. That includes when we've been scandalized, by our own actions or those done to us. God with us reveals that He is at work, even in the mess.

### Discussion Questions

1. Have you or someone close in your family done a family history/genealogy or have you done one of the ancestry DNA tests? Was it exciting to learn about parts of the family you weren't aware of? What do you think of family secrets getting revealed by these type of tests?
2. Read **Matthew 1:1-6** Matthew establishes what his Jewish audience needed in verse 1, which was his Jewishness and from the line of David. Why do you think he includes these 4 women? How can their inclusion in Jesus' genealogy be a reminder to us that Jesus came for all people, regardless of their past or background?
3. How does Tamar's story (Genesis 38) reveal God's ability to redeem even horrible situations? Can you think of a time in your life where you witnessed God bringing redemption out of a difficult or scandalous situation?
4. Why is Rahab's story significant in understanding God's heart for the redemption of those with a tainted past? How can we be more open to giving people second chances and seeing their potential for redemption in our own lives?
5. In what ways does Ruth's story illustrate that being an outsider or having a different background does not hinder God's plan? How can we embrace our own uniqueness and the various backgrounds of others as part of God's diverse and inclusive plan?
6. How does this genealogy of Matthew help us understand our place in the story that God is still writing?

**Shaping Your Mind** – *“The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.” John 1:14*

**Moving Forward** – *Whatever your background, God is inviting you into a bigger story.*