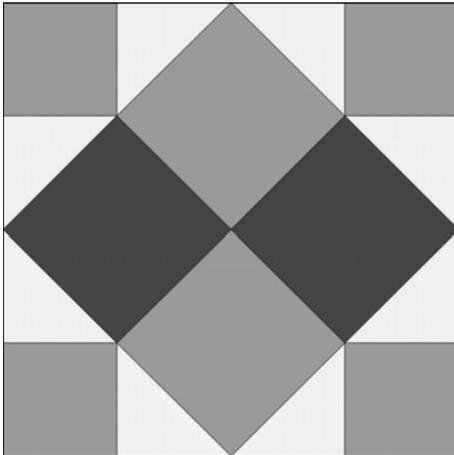




Women of the Bible FREE PATTERN

# Block 18: Tamar



Fabric needed for one block & Cutting instructions	
Dark	1/8 yard or scrap (2) 4-1/8" squares
Medium	1/8 yard or scrap (2) 4-1/8" squares (4) 3" squares
Light	1/8 yard or scrap (4) 3-3/8" squares, cut once diagonally 

The story of Tamar is a great example of how closely the Jewish people followed the Laws of Moses. In the book of Deuteronomy, Moses explains the Ten Commandments, as well as many other statutes and ordinances; one of these was the Levirate Law. *"If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the dead shall not be married outside the family to a stranger; her husband's brother shall go in to her, and take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her."* **Deuteronomy 25:5-6.** The New Oxford Annotated Bible Revised Standard Version. The law further allowed the firstborn son to claim the dead brother's portion of the estate.

Judah had three sons. Tamar married the oldest son, Er, but he died before she was able to conceive a child. Under Levirate Law, Tamar married Onan, the second son, but Onan was selfish and wanted to claim Er's inheritance for himself, so he made certain to withdraw during intercourse, so Tamar could not conceive. The Bible says that Onan was punished by death. Judah had a third son, but he was quite young, so Tamar waited and waited for him to become a marriageable age. Without a son, Tamar would drop to the lowest pecking order of the tribe.

Judah, however, became convinced that Tamar was bad luck, and was somehow responsible for the deaths of two of his sons. After a lengthy period, Tamar realized that Judah was not going to give her his youngest son, Shelah, in marriage. Tamar wanted to be able to claim her share of the estate, so she dressed like a prostitute and tricked Judah into having sex with her without disclosing her identity. Judah left some of his personal property with her as a promise to pay her for her services. She became pregnant and gave birth to twin sons. When Judah learned that Tamar was pregnant, he assumed she had been promiscuous and sentenced her to be burned to death. Tamar produced Judah's personal property to prove that he was the father of her unborn child(ren). Judah realized that Tamar had acted within her rights, even though she had been sneaky about it. He claimed the children as his own, ensuring Tamar's place in the tribe and transferring her husbands' share of the estate to her.

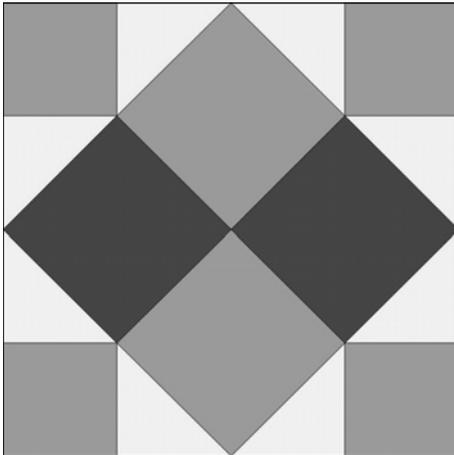
Like Tamar, women throughout history have often had to go to extraordinary measures to get what is rightfully theirs. Tamar's tenacity would have been respected by the tribe, but a similar action today would definitely be considered inappropriate.

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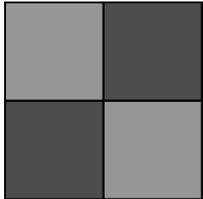
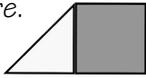
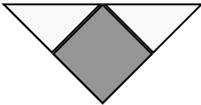
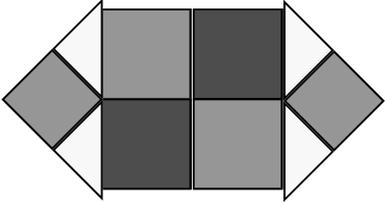


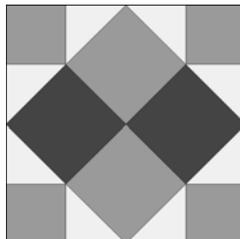
# Block 18: Tamar



Pattern for a 10" finished block—All seams are 1/4".  
Pressing directions are indicated.

## Instructions:

1. Stitch the large Dark and Medium squares together to form (2) 2-patch units. Press toward the Dark fabric. Stitch the 2 units together to form the 4-patch center. Press seam open.
2. Matching right angles, stitch a Light triangle to the side of a small Medium square. The point of the triangle will slightly overlap (approx. 3/8") the square. Press toward the Light triangle and trim dog ear.
3. Stitch a second Light triangle to the other side of the unit from Step 2. Press toward the Light triangle and trim dog ear.
4. Stitch (2) units from Step 3 to opposite sides of the 4-patch unit from Step 1. The points of the triangles will slightly overlap (approx. 3/8") the 4-patch unit. Press seams open.
5. Stitch the remaining units from Step 3 to opposite sides of the unit to complete the block. The points of the triangles will slightly overlap (approx. 3/8") the unit. Press seams open.



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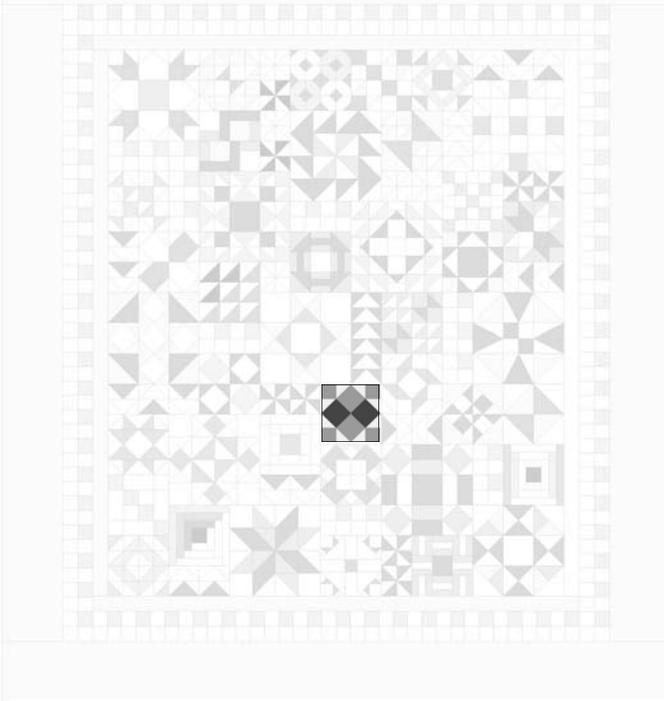


Women of the Bible FREE PATTERN

# Block 18: Tamar

Finished 10"

Tamar is one of four female ancestors of Jesus recorded in the book of Matthew. One of her twin sons turned out to be the ancestor of King David. I chose Four Patch Art Square to represent Tamar and Jesus' four female ancestors.



The space below is provided for your personal reflection.

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