



Discussion Guide for “How to Read Folklore”

How the Bible Works Week 10

How are the powerless to make their way in the world? Folktales - literally stories of the people - record tricks and traps those with no social or political capital use to shape the world around them. But... why are such stories in the Bible? And can they really form us spiritually? Michelle Reyes takes us into the story of Tamar to explore the tricksters and trickstars who enact Biblical justice - whatever it takes!

Scriptures for Further Reading

[Genesis 38](#)

[Genesis 27](#)

[Genesis 30:25-43](#)

[Luke 16:1-13](#)

[2 Timothy 3:15-17](#)

Passage for Sacred Reading:

Sacred Reading is a way of reading Scripture with an eye toward transformation, not just information. You can find a [step-by-step guide here](#). The passage for this week's sacred reading is [Genesis 38](#).

Questions for Discussion

1. When you think of folklore, what do you think of? How did Michelle define folklore? What was new or different about her definition?
2. Why are trickery and deception essential aspects of the tales of the folk?
3. Review the story of Tamar in Genesis 38. Who has the power in this story? Why?
4. How does Tamar employ trickery? WHY does she do so?
5. Review Judah's words when the truth comes to light. How does he *judge* his own actions? Those of Tamar? Why is this surprising for a lot of Biblically-minded people?
6. Are you more of a Judah or a Tamar when it comes to your role(s) in today's world? How does Genesis 38 challenge you this week?