

*Secure in God's House Reader's Theatre*  
**Lesson 8: House of Horrors—When Shelter Does Not Protect**  
2 Samuel 13:1-20  
By Jennifer Davis Sensenig

Leader: reads the regular type, shakes timbrel  
Group: reads **bold** type  
Tamar's voice: reads one sentence in *italics*.

Tamar is our beautiful sister.

We know her family:

**her father, David,**  
**her brother, Absalom.**

We know Tamar's mother, Ahinoam, was one of King David's wives—

**one of many wives**  
**and many concubines.**

Tamar's family was a strong family,

**a powerful family,**  
**a hurting family.**

Tamar is our beautiful sister.

We know Tamar's half-brother Amnon and his cousin Jonadab.

**These men hurt Tamar, our beautiful sister.**

We know Tamar's father failed to shelter her from attack.

**King David,**  
**His son, Amnon,**  
**His nephew, Jonadab:**  
**These men hurt Tamar.**

Amnon believed he loved our beautiful sister Tamar.

**But Amnon didn't love.**

False pretense, schemes, deception, and force:

**These are not love.**

Amnon tricked Tamar and pretended to be sick.

At her father's request, Tamar prepared a meal for Amnon.

**Tamar took the dough.**  
**She prepared the bread with love.**  
**She served it herself.**

Tamar granted Amnon's request for bread.

**But Amnon didn't love.**

**He pretended.**

**He schemed.**

Amnon deceived our beautiful sister.

**Tamar said no.**

**Tamar, our beautiful sister, was forced into sex.**

*Loud shaking of the timbrel that slowly dies away.*

Tamar is our beautiful sister,  
**our mother, our mentor, our cousin.**

Tamar is our beautiful sister,  
**our neighbor, our daughter, our friend.**

Tamar is our beautiful sister,  
**our grandmother, our aunt, our history.**

We know Tamar's family:  
**her father, David,**  
**her brother, Absalom,**  
**her abuser, Amnon.**

Tamar's family was a strong family,  
**a powerful family,**  
**a hurting family.**

Amnon believed he loved our beautiful sister Tamar.  
**But Amnon didn't love.**  
*No, my brother, do not force me;  
for such a thing is not done in Israel;  
do not do anything so vile.*

Tamar said no.  
**Tamar, our beautiful sister, was forced into sex.**

Amnon, her half-brother and abuser, began to hate Tamar.  
**Amnon didn't love.**  
**Amnon didn't listen.**  
**Amnon began to hate.**  
**Amnon threw her out.**

Tamar, our beautiful sister,  
**wore ashes on her head.**

Tamar, our beautiful sister,  
**tore her robe.**

Tamar, our beautiful sister,  
**held her head in her hands.**

Tamar, our beautiful sister,  
**cried aloud and left.**

Tamar is our beautiful sister,  
**our mother, our mentor, our cousin.**

Tamar is our beautiful sister,  
**our neighbor, our daughter, our friend.**

Tamar is our beautiful sister,  
**our grandmother, our aunt, our history.**

Tamar, our beautiful sister, was forced into sex.  
**We remember her resistance.**  
**We remember the ashes in her hair.**  
**We remember her torn robe.**  
**We remember her loud cries.**

*Gentle shaking of the timbrel.*

We are a new family—  
    **a family of women and men.**  
    **a family who remembers.**  
    **a family who listens.**  
    **a family who loves.**  
We are women who know the story—  
    **mothers and mentors,**  
    **cousins and neighbors,**  
    **sisters and daughters,**  
    **grandmothers and friends.**  
Tamar is our beautiful sister.

*Participants may light candles remembering women who have been victimized.  
The leader may offer an opportunity for sharing stories at this time and/or a period of quiet  
prayer. Close by singing together verses one and two of HWB 377 “Healer of our every ill.”*