

Bible Essentials

Scripture Passage: Genesis 30:25-43

Think about your past week. How has God answered prayer or worked in your life? What prayer requests do you have? Write them here. Then take time to pray about your requests and ask him to open your heart for today's study.

Read today's passage. Jot down your initial impressions of the passage.

Here is some context for Genesis 30:25-43.

At the start of this story, Jacob had worked for Laban a minimum of 14 years, maybe more. He had worked 7 years and got tricked into marrying Leah, then he worked another 7 years for Rachel. We don't really know if he worked additional time after that without any wages. While Jacob was working for Laban, Jacob and his wives had at least 12 children (11 boys and 1 girl). Finally, once Rachel had a son, Jacob started to think about accumulating wealth for himself and his family.

What are your thoughts about the context? Write some key points here.

Read the passage again. Use a different Bible version if you have one available. Then summarize the passage in your own words.

Look closely at the passage and answer the following questions.

What does the passage say about God?

Understanding how a passage fits into the overarching story of the Bible is important.

Time after time, we are reminded that God keeps his promises, even when people are imperfect. Abraham and Sarah made mistakes, and yet God still kept his promise and used them to bring about the first step in God's plan to bring Jesus into the world. Isaac and Rebekah made mistakes, and God still kept his promise and used them in the second step of his plan. And in this passage, Jacob uses some manipulation to build wealth for himself, but God still kept his promise and used Jacob to start building a nation.

Throughout the Bible, we see that God uses imperfect people. He used Moses, even though Moses murdered someone. He used Rahab, even though she was a prostitute. He used David, even though he slept with another man's wife and then had him killed. It's a comfort to know that despite all our messes, despite all our imperfections, God can still use us to work out his plan.

What are your thoughts on how this passage fits into the overarching story of the Bible? Write your thoughts here. If you have any questions, write those as well. You may find answers in future lessons, or you may want to find another Christian that you can ask.

Use the following questions to apply today's Scripture passage to your own life.

How does this passage affect how you view God?

How does this passage affect how you view yourself?

How does this passage affect how you will live your life?

Close in prayer, asking God to help you apply what you learned today.