

Bible Essentials

Scripture Passage: Genesis 30:25-43

As a group, share something about your past week. For example, share prayer requests and answers to prayer. Share the best and worst moments of your week (highs and lows). Write prayer requests here. Open with prayer for these requests and for God to open your hearts to this week's study.

Have you ever manipulated a situation to make sure you had success and others didn't? If so, describe the situation.

Read today's passage. Discuss your initial impressions of the passage. Write any major points here.

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? Discuss the context as a group. Write some key points here.

Read the passage again. Use a different Bible version if you have one available. Have someone summarize the passage in their own words, and use this space to record that summary.

Look closely at the passage and answer the following questions as a group. Write notes in the space provided.

What does the passage say about God?

What does the passage say about people?

What does the passage say about God's plan?

What else strikes you about this passage?

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? Discuss as a group. What questions do you have individually or as a group? Discuss potential answers.

As a group, use the following questions to apply today's Scripture passage to your 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.