

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
Sermon Study Equipping Class  
**FACILITATOR'S GUIDE**

Genesis 30:1-24

Remember, the “answers” provided below are not intended to be complete. They are to give you a bit of guidance on key elements to highlight in the discussion time and to help clarify the intent of some questions in case it wasn't initially clear. Not every question has an “answer” provided. Consider the comments more as insight and guidance rather than right vs wrong answers.

Remember to ask follow up questions, such as “Explain that further,” or “Who else has an answer?” to prompt additional input from the class or “Where do you see that in the text?” to remind everyone to be getting their answers from the Scriptures.

❖ Opening Prayer (3 min)

❖ Discussion (52 min)

1. Skim and review Genesis 27-29. How did Jacob get to where we find him in Gen 30?
  - Jacob deceived Isaac into giving him the blessing of the firstborn. Jacob then flees from Esau to his uncle Laban, and on the way receives the blessing of God in a vision. Jacob works for Laban to marry Rachel, but Laban tricks Jacob into marrying Leah, then gives him Rachel as well.
2. What is highlighted concerning Jacob's treatment of Leah in 29:30? How does the Lord respond to this?
  - He loved Rachel more than Leah
  - He opened her womb and she bore Jacob Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah
3. Read Genesis 30:1-24.
4. What motivates Rachel in 30:1?
  - Jealousy
5. How does Jacob respond in 30:2? Is Jacob right in what he says?
  - Anger
  - Yes (29:31)
6. What results from this in vv. 4-8?
  - Rachel gives him her maid Bilhah to have children for her. She gives birth to 2 sons – Dan and Naphtali
7. What is Leah's response to this in v. 9?
  - She gives her maid Zilpah to Jacob.

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8. What does this result in in vv. 10-13?
  - Zilpah bears two more sons to Jacob – Gad and Asher
9. Describe the interaction between Leah and Rachel in vv. 14-15.
  - Reuben, Leah's son, finds some Mandrakes which Rachel wants. Rachel asks for them, and Leah responds with a somewhat snarky remark that Rachel has stolen her husband, so Rachel offers to let Jacob sleep with her in exchange for the mandrakes.
10. What is Leah's view of her relationship with Jacob in v. 16?
  - She has hired him for his services is somewhat what her view is. She wants intimacy with him at any costs.
11. How does Jacob respond? How does this reveal his heart?
  - He complies.
  - He goes along with these sinful selfish interactions between his wives. He does not shepherd them.
12. What results from these actions in vv. 17-21?
  - Leah bears Jacob two more sons – Issachar and Zebulun.
13. What happens in v. 22? What does this highlight about God in light of Rachel's behavior so far?
  - God remembered Rachel and heeded her prayers.
  - Grace – she has been selfish and manipulative, yet God has mercy on her.
14. What happens in vv. 23-24?
  - Rachel bears a son and names him Joseph, desiring another son from the Lord.
15. How would you describe the actions and attitudes of Jacob, Leah, and Rachel throughout this whole account? Have they been sinful and selfish, or loving and selfless?
  - They are typically selfish, self-centered, manipulative, compliant with wrong, etc.
16. How would you describe God's character as it is displayed in this section?
  - Gracious, patient, wisely orchestrating these events to fulfill his purposes.
17. Look back at the promise God made to Jacob in Gen 28:13-15. How is this promise being fulfilled in this passage?
  - Part of the promise was many offspring. He now has eleven sons and a daughter.

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18. What other promises had God made that were hinging on what happened in this passage?

- The blessing of all nations through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and their offspring.

19. What means does God use in this passage to accomplish his purposes? What lesson should this teach us?

- God uses the sinful, selfish manipulation of all of these parties to accomplish his purposes and fulfill his redemptive plans.
- God will accomplish his purposes, at times, even using the sinful actions of people.

20. What is the ultimate result that these events are leading to?

- The fulfillment of the blessing in Christ

21. How does this remind us of the means, purposes, and plans of God displayed at the cross?

- God uses the sinful actions of sinful men who sinfully despised, rejected, and crucified his Son, in order to accomplish salvation for his people (Acts 2:23).

❖ Closing Prayer (5 min)