

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of September 18-24, 2022

“TROUBLE IN HARAN”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What practical joke have you ever played on a friend? Or one that was played on you?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read ahead GENESIS 29:1-30

1. Compare Genesis 24:10-32 with today's passage. What similarities do you see in how Isaac and Jacob met their respective mates? What differences do you see? What observations and lessons strike you?
2. How do you think was it possible that Jacob didn't know he was sleeping with another woman on his wedding night? Why did Jacob, who is clearly shocked and furious in verse 25, agree so compliantly to Laban's explanation and further offer? How was Laban's deceit with Jacob parallel to Jacob's deceit with his family?
3. When Laban deceived Jacob by having Jacob marry Leah instead of Rachel, did you think Jacob deserved this deception? Why or why not? Have you ever been deceived by someone before? How did you respond?
4. Jacob finally got “the one” thing he had been searching for! For seven years he was controlled by a single passion to marry Rachel. When the dream finally became a reality—she was Leah! When like Jacob, have you had to suffer such delays in getting what you “want”? What lesson does this teach us about our own wants and passions?
5. How did Leah compare with Rachel (29:17)? What do we learn about Rachel in 30:1, 31:19? How would you describe Leah's relationship with her husband (29:31-34)?

6. What is God doing with Jacob? Look ahead to the prayer of 32:9-12. How does the affirmation of chapter 28 and the discipline of chapter 29 work together to get Jacob to this place?
7. (Optional) Read Genesis 29:31-30:24. How does God deal with the lovelessness of Leah and with the bareness of Rachel? What can we learn from this passage about relationships, our dreams in life, and about God?

8. NEXT STEPS

Because God is always with us, we must pray him into our story!

- I will surrender my “passions” and “dreams” to God.
- I will be cognizant of the consequences of my actions.
- I will remember that just like Leah, despite my flaws and weaknesses, I am chosen!
- God is my greatest blessing and I will share him to those in need of his grace.
- I will share Jesus and His love with others, and reach out to my friends and loved ones.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for a hearts that are open for God to show us who we are.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE.

September 19	Matthew 1:1-17
September 20	Numbers 20:1-29
September 21	2 Samuel 7:1-17
September 22	Psalms 7:1-17
September 23	Genesis 30:1-24
September 24	Exodus 16:21-27
September 25	Genesis 30:25-43