

OCF Small Groups: *passionately pursuing God, healthy relationships with each other, and people who don't know Jesus, as part of a Gospel Community.*

Genesis 29: 1 - 30

(Sunday, February 28)

1.
 - a. When you were a teenager, where was the place to hang out and meet the opposite sex?
 - b. If married: Where did you first meet your spouse? How did you know that he/she was the one?
 - c. If single: What character traits would you want in a prospective spouse?

2. Compare Jacob's arrival in Haran with the arrival of Abraham's servant at the same place almost 100 years earlier (24: 10-30).
 - a. How are the two episodes similar?
 - b. What key difference do you see in how the two men approached their wife-finding task?
 - c. How important are friends/family ties and a common faith in the choice of a mate? What else matters to you in this regard?

3. What do you think accounts for Jacob's immediate emotional response upon encountering Rachel (29: 9-12)?

4. The seven years Jacob waited "seemed like only a few days" to him because of his love for Rachel.
 - a. How long have you waited for something you desperately wanted in life? Did it take several long years to get what you wanted or did those years seem "like only a few days?" Explain.
 - b. Is there something you're waiting for God to do in your life right now? How is your love for God impacting this waiting period? Explain.

5. In the land of Haran, Jacob the deceiver feels the pain of deception (v. 25).
 - a. How does Jacob's declaration to Laban, "Why then have you deceived me?" ironically echo Isaac's declaration to Esau in 27: 35?
 - b. What might God be teaching Jacob through the pain of this situation?
 - c. What does it look like to not allow our past mistakes to define us in the present? How do we move forward in humility without allowing fear to cripple us?

6.
 - a. Deception seems to have run in this family (e.g., Rebekah, Jacob, Laban) as a way to get something they wanted. When have you deceived or lied in the past to get something you want OR when were you the painful recipient of being deceived or lied to? Explain.
 - b. How do we begin to correct and resolve those sinful situations in a godly way?
 - c. Do particular sinful habits run across family lines and appear among different family members? Are these sinful habits an example of generational sin or something else? Why or why not?
 - d. What are some ways we identify and break generational sin within our own family line?

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION Genesis 29: 20

So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

PRAY

Lord Jesus, thank you for your grace in my life. Thank you that your death, burial, and resurrection make you bigger than my sin and any of my mistakes. Thank you for giving me your Spirit and my church family to help break generational sin in my family. Help me to always love you and wait on you—in Jesus name I pray, AMEN.