

Icebreaker:

Jacob met Rachel at the well where she watered her camels. When you were younger, where might you go to meet girls or guys?

Read the scripture and discuss the following:

1. Jacob weeps aloud at seeing Rachel and learning that she is his uncle's daughter. Why do think Jacob was so emotional?
2. Jacob rolls away a large stone from the mouth of the well when he meets Rachel, later works for her father for 7 years to marry her. Has there been a time when the power of love has energized you to make a sacrifice for someone else?
3. Have you ever been cheated or deceived as was Jacob? If so, did you ever experience restitution, and if so, how did that happen? If not, what did happen?
4. Clearly, unhealthy attributes can be passed down through the generations. What are some good and healthy attributes that have been passed down to you by your family?
5. This passage can be helpful for those who have felt left out or left behind. Is there a particular story or passage in scripture that has been helpful to you in time of need?
6. Compare and contrast Leah and Rachel. Have you ever been subject to a similar comparison? What was that like? What typically results from such comparisons?
7. How do you think Jacob now viewed the Lord's promise to him in Genesis 28:15, "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you"?
8. In light of Jacob's "love story" and Valentine's Day, what is one specific way you can show your love for others this week?

Prayer:

As you pray for one another, please pray for the following needs in our church family.

prayer requests

- > Prayers of healing for Ken Miller.
- > Prayers of comfort for Tom Corbett in the death of his mother.

Info for your group:

> Home Group Leader Meeting | Sunday, February 25 | Noon

Leader's notes:

Jacob's story just keeps on getting more fascinating. He meets his future wife and shows off for her by moving the large stone covering the well. His uncle tricks him into marrying the older daughter Leah, before marrying the younger one, Rachel. Jacob says he loves Rachel more – which will play out in his family in years to come. Yet, our God is a God who can bring good out of bad and use us even in weakness. God can continue to teach us in this crazy, mixed-up family story, which may look somewhat like our own families.

[Question 1] It was probably no coincidence that Jacob met his family near the well, and was taken by his future wife when he saw her. God was showing up in Jacob's life and fulfilling his promise. Perhaps Jacob was just happy to see family. Maybe he was seeing God at work, and feeling cared for instead of alone.

[Question 2] Jacob shows off his strength by moving the stone. He works for 7 years, though it only seemed a few days, to marry Rachel. Love can help us to do things we wouldn't normally do. God's grace leads to our gratitude. Our love for God, and for others, can be a response to God's love. We can make sacrifices because we love.

[Question 3] Laban truly cheated Jacob by switching the daughter's in the tent on the wedding night. Do you ever wonder how this really happened? However it came about, it was a dirty trick by Laban and caused hard feelings by Jacob which hurts Leah. Did someone who tricked or hurt you make restitution? How?

[Question 4] Deception was in the family line of siblings Laban and Rebekah. Their deception helped to tear apart their families. We see when hurt and pain is passed down in today's families. Have good attributes (kindness, love, patience, faithfulness, integrity, generosity) been passed down in your family?

[Question 5] Even though Leah was left behind by Jacob, who loved Rachel more than her, she was eventually rewarded. In the genealogy of Matthew, it is told that Jesus is in the family or line of Judah, Leah's son, not Rachel's. God cares for those left behind or left out. Do you have a passage that helps you to know this?

[Question 6] Rachel is more beautiful to Jacob, while Leah is the older sister. She is married first, but not loved. Comparisons when people play favorites and base who they love on beauty can be dangerous and hurtful.

[Question 7] Jacob viewed God's promise with more trust. God helped him to find his uncle, and his wives. Although he was tricked, he now has a family again, and even finds material success in the future.

[Question 8] Valentine's Day might be about romantic love, but real love can be about spending time, caring for others, and looking out for the other's interests more than your own. What is a simple and practical way to show love this week?