



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 1st September 2024



Genesis 29:13-31. Deceiver Deceived!

Warm Up

Have you ever been the victim of a scam? However wise we think we may be, we are all vulnerable to a scam. If it's not too painful, share a tale of when you were deceived.

Background and context

Jacob has deceived his brother out of his birthright. Jacob has deceived his blind father into blessing him. Despite this, God chooses to bless Jacob and use him to fulfil His own purposes. In this part of Jacob's story we see him arriving in a new land to his distant family, hoping to be well treated. What he gets is a taste of his own medicine. He becomes the one deceived, the one who is cheated. But through this story we learn how God is revealing to Jacob his need to change, and how God is preparing the way for a saviour for us all, Jesus.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



READ Genesis 29:13-31. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. **Read v 14-15.** What does Laban emphasise and what does he offer Jacob?
2. How does Laban's deception of Jacob mirror the way Jacob deceived his family?
3. **Read v 26.** How might this have pricked Jacob's conscience and show him that he is reaping what he has sown?
4. How did Jacob exploit weakness in Esau and Isaac? How does Laban exploit Jacob's weakness?
5. God had promised to bless Jacob. In what way is this story part of God's blessing?
6. **Read John 16:8, Romans 2:6-8.** How do these verses help us understand what God is doing in the life of Jacob?
7. **Read v31.** Leah is the unloved substitute that God blesses by opening her womb. How is this a signpost to Jesus? **cf Isaiah 53:2-5**

Discipleship and Application



8. **Read Romans 3:21-23.** Faith in Christ provides a righteousness for us that we cannot earn. Without this how would we stand before a righteous judgment and how might we be like Jacob and Laban?
9. What lessons can we learn from the story of Jacob and Laban?
10. How does this story reveal our need of a saviour?

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.



We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.