

# blessing of breaking

## Small Group Discussion

### Womb Wars III: Sisters of Envy

Story of Jacob Week 5: Genesis 29.31-30.24

#### Getting Started

- Have you ever been deceived or manipulated? How did you respond?
- God is the giver of every good gift. What do you think we are communicating, intentionally or unintentionally, when we are striving to make our lives better through our own strength without first surrendering to God?

#### Static Questions

- **What was the passage about?**
  - Note the key details (Who, What, When, Where, Why, etc.)
  - Pay attention to the main *points* of the passage.
- **What did you learn?**
  - What did the passage reveal about God? About people?
  - Was there a promise or command or a warning?
  - What is the big idea of the passage?
  - What lessons do you see?
- **How will you apply it?**
  - How does this passage relate to your life right now?
  - What change in your thinking or behavior is needed to align with the truths in this message?
  - How should you respond based on what you learned?

#### From the Teaching this Morning

- What is the significance of God *seeing* Leah & God *remembering* Rachel? What can we learn about God's blessing from this?
- Six barren women: Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, Manoah's wife, Hannah, Elizabeth. Six significant sons: Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Samson, Samuel, John the Baptist. Why do you think the bible tells us these six stories? What lessons can we learn?
- How can these stories both guide us and provide hope when we are in the midst of difficulty and trial?

#### Application Questions

- Have you experienced a time when you felt unloved or rejected while someone else was receiving the affection you desired? How did you respond? How did you treat the other person?
- With the story of Rachel in mind, how might you respond to this type of scenario in the future?
- **Suggestion:** This week as you pray, ask the Holy Spirit to show you areas in your life where you might be trying to bring about your own desires—at any cost. If the Spirit brings anything to mind, consider your posture before God. Both literally and figuratively.

Pray that God would give you the strength to stop striving and to trust in him. Pray with your hands open, palms up. Let this physical posture be a reminder that we are to come to God with open hands, surrendering our desires, trusting him for our every good.

