

blessing of breaking

Small Group Discussion

Genetics and Genius in Gilead

Story of Jacob Week 6: Genesis 30.24–43

Getting Started

- Share a story about how you were blessed by someone else this past week.

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

- Sten-Erik presented a view that Jacob was not necessarily trying to use “white magic” or superstition with the rods. If Jacob was resorting to pagan superstition in an attempt to manipulate the situation, how does that impact the end result?
- What did Laban’s questions and actions reveal about his priorities? How does that stand in contrast to what we’ve seen with Abraham, Isaac, and now (although just beginning) Jacob?

Application Questions

- Jacob was in a seemingly impossible position. After spending 14 years paying off his dowry debt through service he was looking at a life with 2 wives, 2 servants, and 12 children without being given the opportunity to prepare and provide for his family. Penniless. We may not be able to identify with such an extreme situation. But have you ever found yourself questioning God during a long season of hardship or suffering? Looking back, how can you see God’s faithfulness to you even in the midst of that struggle?
- Jacob in the past was motivated by self-interest and personal enrichment. Laban is certainly focused on material riches and success. All of us can slip into selfishness rather than trusting God with our future; what are some of the triggers that can cause you to lose sight of the promises of God and focus more on what’s “best for you?”
- Remembering your response to the first question, how might you be used by God to be a blessing to others this week?

