

LIFE Group Guide

Depravity

Pastor Justin Searles

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THE ORCHARD

Read: Genesis 34:1-12

Outline:

A dark decent (33:18 - 34:7)

- A long pause in the pursuit of God
- A mingling with the world
- A tragic neglect and heinous offense

A dark decent (34:8-29)

- Attempted cover up
- Treachery using God's covenant
- Massacre and plunder

A stinking reputation (34:30-31)

- Unjust and merciless
- Savage and defiled
- Untrustworthy and unsafe

A call for cleansing: (35:1-4)

- Depart and go to "God's house"
- Abandon idols and rings
- Purify and become new

God's response (35:5-14)

- Restrain consequences
- Reconnect roots
- Reappear, rename, refresh promises

Discussion Questions

1. What encouraged, nourished, or challenged you from this sermon? The scripture passage?
2. What clues in the text help us to see that Jacob is not pursuing the Lord? What things show up in your life when you are on autopilot or aren't pursuing God?
3. How do Jacob's actions, and the actions of his children, cause harm to their reputation and God's reputation in the Land?
4. After Jacob's sin, God call them to turn back to following him. How does Jacob respond to this call to turn back to God? What does it look like in his life? How does God call us to repent and turn to him? What are some practical ways you need to repent today?