

LIFE Group Guide

Dividends

Pastor Justin Searles

October 26, 2025

Genesis 29:9-14



THE ORCHARD

Read: Genesis 29:9-14

Outline:

God reveals His character in the cruel and tragic struggles of life.

Struggle #1: Jacob's struggle for love

- Men will disappoint and use you, but God can be trusted.
- Seek God's will before and above all things.

Struggle #2: Wives struggle for love and children

- God loves and chooses the unloved.
- God loves every child despite circumstances of birth.
- God wants women treated with dignity and importance.

Struggle #3: Jacob's struggle with Laban for wealth.

- Obedience can overcome the schemes of man.
- God takes from the wicked and gives to the righteous.

Discussion Questions

1. What encouraged, nourished, or challenged you from this sermon? The scripture passage?
2. The story of Jacob is a story of struggle – Jacob feels as though he needs to struggle and cheat to get what he wants in life. This flows into his view of God. How does Jacob show that he feels like he needs to do whatever it takes to get God to do what he wants? What ways do you feel or act like you need to do things in order to twist God's arm to do what you want?
3. What do the stories of Rachel and Leah teach us about God's regard for the unloved? How do we see Leah's relationship with Jacob and God change as the story progresses? (You can see it in the way that she names her children).
4. When Laban attempts to cheat Jacob out of wealth he worked for, how do we see Jacob's posture toward God changing? How does God respond to Jacob's situation in this story?
5. The story of Jacob is a messy one – filled with sinful desire, cheating, lying, stealing and much more. What are some ways that you see God's character shine though in these stories? Take one of the characteristics you talked about. Pray that God would respond to your own messiness in light of that characteristic.