

LIFE Group Guide

Dividends

Pastor Justin Searles

November 2, 2025

Genesis 31:1-16



THE ORCHARD

Read: Genesis 31:1-16

Outline:

Evidence of transformation:

- Jacob listens and obeys the Lord.
- Jacob is honest and respectful toward his wives.
- Leah and Rachel show loyalty to Jacob above their father Laban.

Evidence of residual dysfunction:

- Rachel steals the idols of her father (v.19)
- Jacob overreacts when something goes wrong (v.32)

How Jacob departs dysfunction:

1. Evaluates how he is viewed and treated (v.2, 5, 14-15)
2. Determines the will of the Lord (v.16)
3. Acts immediately and without permission from his oppressor. (v.21)
4. Allows God to deal with his oppressor (v. 24)
5. Disregard the oppressor's accusations and claims of ownership (v.25-30 & 43)
6. Reveals his fear of them and the valid reasons for his departure (v.31)
7. Gives an aggressive legal rebuke (v.36-42)
8. Negotiates a release with binding resolutions and legal witnesses (v.44-50)
9. Establishes a "do not cross" boundary (v.51-54)

Discussion Questions

1. What encouraged, nourished, or challenged you from this sermon? The scripture passage?
2. What are the ways that we see genuine change in Jacob, Rachel and Leah? What qualities or characteristics do they exhibit that are example for us?
3. Why did Jacob decide to leave Laban's house? What are some of the ways that we can know it's time to leave a dysfunctional situation?
4. How does Jacob seek and trust God when leaving Laban's household?
5. Read Genesis 31:43-55 and consider these questions:
 - a. How does the conflict between Laban and Jacob end? How does this ending show Jacob's faith in God?
 - b. How do these verses point us to how God restores us to a relationship with himself through Jesus?