

LIMPING with God STUDY GUIDE



Week 3: Ramsay St. Drama

Warm-Up

Share Highs/Lows since the last time you met.

What insights from the first study have you reflected on this past week?

How has God surprised you this past week?

Work Out

¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful. ¹⁸ Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, "I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel." ¹⁹ Laban said, "It's better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me." ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her. ²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to make love to her." ²² So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. ²³ But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her. ²⁴ And Laban gave his servant Zilpah to his daughter as her attendant. ²⁵ When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?"

Genesis 29:16-25

1. When Jacob meets Rachel, he falls for the love of his life, a true Hollywood love story. However he gets deceived and marries Leah instead Rachel. The marriage of Jacob, Leah & Rachel becomes very messy. Do true love stories ever happen in the real world? Why?
2. What do you think of this statement? God says, "I have given you a co-sinner with whom to live, so that together, in this university of marriage, you might study and learn what a life of sacrificial love is like." Do you agree or disagree? Why?
3. What does it mean to be curved in on ourselves and how does it manifest itself in marriage? Give examples. How is marriage a God-given school of discipleship?

³¹ When the Lord saw that Leah was not loved, he enabled her to conceive, but Rachel remained childless. ³² Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Reuben, for she said, "It is because the Lord has seen my misery. Surely my husband will love me now."
³³ She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "Because the Lord heard that I am not loved, he gave me this one too." So she named him Simeon.
³⁴ Again she conceived, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "Now at last my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." So he was named Levi.
³⁵ She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "This time I will praise the Lord." So she named him Judah. Then she stopped having children.
¹ When Rachel saw that she was not bearing Jacob any children, she became jealous of her sister. So she said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I'll die!"² Jacob became angry with her and said, "Am I in the place of God, who has kept you from having children?"...**(to get the full story read Gen 30:3-16)**
¹⁷ God listened to Leah, and she became pregnant and bore Jacob a fifth son. ¹⁸ Then Leah said, "God has rewarded me for giving my servant to my husband." So she named him Issachar.
¹⁹ Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth son. ²⁰ Then Leah said, "God has presented me with a precious gift. This time my husband will treat me with honor, because I have borne him six sons." So she named him Zebulun.
²¹ Some time later she gave birth to a daughter and named her Dinah.
²² Then God remembered Rachel; he listened to her and enabled her to conceive. ²³ She became pregnant and gave birth to a son and said, "God has taken away my disgrace." ²⁴ She named him Joseph, and said, "May the Lord add to me another son."

Genesis 29:31-35, 30:1-2,17-24

4. Does the dysfunctional nature of so many biblical families bother you? Why or why not?
5. Discuss the marriages and children of Jacob. What fears, challenges, pains, disappointments, joys, and resentments were present in this family? How do we see those things evidenced in modern families and marriages?
6. What are we, the disciples of Jesus, to make of the tangled mess of the "holy" family? What major and minor truths can we learn from this part of Jacob's story?
7. How might we use this part of Jacob's life to give encouragement to spouses, children, or parents who think their family is a "lost cause" or "beyond redemption"? Read Ephesians 5:22-6:4. What instructions does Paul give to disciples about marriage and children?

Cool Down

Pray as a group for each other and for your study of God's Word.
(If no one feels comfortable, pray the Lord's Prayer together.)