

Discussion Questions

July 10, 2022



..BUT GOD

Families are Dysfunctional ... but GOD

1. Read Genesis 31:1-42. Discuss what we learn about Jacob's family dynamics. How does God Meet Him in his dysfunction?
2. What principles can we learn about protecting our families from sin and dysfunction, as we consider the tragic story of Jacob's family?
3. If you're comfortable sharing, describe some of the dysfunctional aspects of the family you grew up in. How did you cope with the dysfunction?
4. Share a time when God worked through a dysfunctional situation in your life. What were the circumstances? How did God work despite them?
5. What does it look like practically to Choose to no longer be a slave to our dysfunctional identities and the sins of our past and walk in the Freedom Christ won for us on the cross? What steps can someone take to live in this freedom?



Genesis 31:4–9

So Jacob called Rachel and Leah out to the field where he was watching his flock. He said to them, "I have noticed that your father's attitude toward me has changed. But the God of my father has been with me. You know how hard I have worked for your father, but he has cheated me, changing my wages ten times. But God has not allowed him to do me any harm. For if he said, 'The speckled animals will be your wages,' the whole flock began to produce speckled young. And when he changed his mind and said, 'The striped animals will be your wages,' then the whole flock produced striped young. In this way, God has taken your father's animals and given them to me.

Genesis 29:20

So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him like only a few days because of his love for her.

Genesis 29:21

Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my time is completed, that I may have relations with her."

Genesis 31:6-7a

You know how hard I have worked for your father, but he has cheated me, changing my wages ten times.

Genesis 31:38, 39–42

"For twenty years I have been with you, caring for your flocks...You made me pay for every stolen animal, whether it was taken in broad daylight or in the dark of night. "I worked for you through the scorching heat of the day and through cold and sleepless nights. Yes, for twenty years I slaved in your house! I worked for fourteen years earning your two daughters, and then six more years for your flock. And you changed my wages ten times! In fact, if the God of my father had not been on my side—the God of Abraham and the fearsome God of Isaac—you would have sent me away empty-handed. But God has seen your abuse and my hard work.

Genesis 32:28

"Your name will no longer be Jacob," the man told him. "From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won."

Ephesians 2:1,3–5

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins... we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Galatians 3:13

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.

Galatians 5:1

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 4:7

Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child