



## LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 24th November 2024



### Genesis 35:16-29 Grief and Grace

#### Warm Up

What bad things happen in this world over which humans have no control?

Has a poor decision or a sin ever come back to "bite"?

#### Background and context

Jacob is finally returning to his family home. In this chapter there are 4 short stories that seem to encapsulate the whole of Jacob's life. Two stories of grief and pain and two of grace and God's goodness. Remember Jacob had lived a life of struggle, deceit and selfishness until he truly met with God. From there the story changed, but he still faced challenges and the consequences of his previous actions. He experiences God's grace and the working out of God's purposes yet still lives in a fallen and broken world dealing with his own sin and that of others too.

#### Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



**READ Genesis 35:16-29:** *What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?*

1. Why do you think Rachael's death is mentioned in detail here? Leah only gets a small mention in ch 49:31. His concubines are not mentioned at all.
2. Is there evidence that Rachael's death was the fault of anyone or caused by sin? What should we infer from this?
3. What tough lesson about the world can be learned from Rachael's death?
4. We don't know why Reuben slept with Bilhah. Could Jacob's poor attitudes and parenting choices be connected to it? (ch 30;14-18, ch33:1-3, ch 37:3). How might Reuben have felt towards his father?
5. Where does the passage reveal that God is fulfilling His promise to Abraham (Gen 12)?
6. If you scan back through Genesis where do we see God's grace being revealed?
7. Read Genesis 25:8-9, 35:29, 50:7-8, 50:18-21 . Each time a patriarch dies God brings about reconciliation. How does this point to Jesus?

#### Discipleship and Application



8. Often people struggle with the random nature of suffering. How can we be assured of security in such an insecure world? (John 16:33)
9. The best thing in Jacob's life was God. Is this true of you?

#### Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.



We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.