



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 17th November 2024



Genesis 34 Cries unheard!

Warm Up

What is there in the news, recent or long ago, that breaks your heart or fills you with despair? Do the stories make you angry, give you a desire for justice? How should we respond to them?

Background and context

This passage is full of darkness, lust, greed and deceit. You might wonder why the writer of Genesis chose to include such an awful story. What purpose does it serve? How does this story add to the bigger narrative of God's relationship with His people? In fact in this chapter, God is not mentioned, nor does anyone pray to Him. Perhaps there is a clue in this. This passage paints a picture that is such a long way from the world God created in Eden. A Godless world driven by the emotions of men, where women are treated as property to be bought and sold.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

READ: Genesis 34. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. How does the passage make you feel?
2. Where is God in this story? Why don't Jacob or his sons pray for wisdom?
3. After the rape, how is Dinah treated? Did she have a voice?
4. In this chapter, powerful people make decisions about the vulnerable. What are the consequences? We see similar things today. Can you give some examples?
5. How did sin escalate in the chapter? Why did it escalate? See **James 1:14-15**
6. Can we be sure we would not react in a similar way if someone we loved was hurt by others?
7. How did Jacob's sons justify their actions? Why did they behave in such a way?
8. Look up the following: Jeremiah 17:10, Luke 6:45, Genesis 6:5, Proverbs 3:5, Philippians 4:7, Ezekiel 11:19. What do these verses suggest about the human heart?
9. In our modern world this story is being repeated daily around the world. As believers in Jesus, what is our role in trying to restore Eden?

Discipleship and Application

10. We are all guilty of sin and have been victims of other's sin. How should we respond when: we are confronted by our own sin? We are the victim of another's sin?
11. **Read Romans 12:17-12.** What is a Christian response to evil and suffering in the world?

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.

