

GOD NEVER GIVES UP

Waiting | Genesis 29:1-30

1. Read Genesis 29:1-30. If you have time, you may want to see how the story continues to unfold by skim-reading Genesis 31:1-16 too. What phrases or words particularly strike you as you read the text?
2. Have a conversation about the relational complications captured in the story. Discuss each character and the emotions and motivations they are wrestling with. How does this ancient story from the Middle East impact you when viewed through a contemporary Western worldview?
3. What events lead up to the story of Genesis 29:1-30? How does this context affect our understanding of waiting in this passage? How in the story is Jacob made to wait? Discuss his response at each stage of the waiting.
4. Reflect on the timing of Rachel's arrival at the well. How does this highlight the importance of divine timing in our lives, if at all?
5. Discuss how Jacob's patience and trust in God's plan are tested during his time waiting for Rachel. How does this relate to our own experiences of waiting? Explore the obstacles Jacob faces during his time of waiting. How does he respond to these challenges, and what can we learn from his perseverance?
6. Can you think of a time when you've had to wait for something you've really wanted? How/did you discover that God's timing was perfect?
7. How does prayer factor into Jacob's waiting period, if at all? Reflect on the importance of seeking God's guidance and strength during times of waiting in our own lives. As you recall your own story of waiting from Q6, did seeking God's wisdom feature?
8. How can we cultivate contentment and trust in God's provision during our own seasons of waiting? How did Chris' points of application help? Waiting (1) requires trust; (2) surrenders control; (3) allows God to work; (4) increases our strength.
9. Discuss the significance of Laban's involvement in Jacob's waiting process. How does the support, guidance and/or interference of others impact our ability to endure during times of waiting? How does/can God use obstacles/circumstances for our good (Romans 8:28)?
10. Spend some time praying together about things you are waiting for.



What did you discover about God in this passage?
What did you discover about people in this passage?
How will you commit to obey this passage this week?
With whom will you share what you have learned?

