

A Family of Families: My In-Law Is An Outlaw

Genesis 30:25-31:55

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FIVE INGREDIENTS THAT LED TO THE OUTCOME OF THIS STORY:

#1 – Jacob’s passivity and cowardice.

#2 – Laban’s refusal to let go.

#3 – The misplaced loyalty of Leah and Rachel.

#4 – Jacob’s integrity.

#5 – God’s favor.

A FEW QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS (REGARDING YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE'S PARENTS):

1. Describe the ideal in-law relationship.
2. How do you think your parents would describe the ideal in-law relationship?
3. Speculate on what you think your in-laws say and think about you in their most honest, unguarded moments.
4. Give some specific examples of occasions when your parents showed healthy interest and concern in your marriage. Give some specific examples of occasions when you felt your parents meddled or interfered in your marriage.
5. List some things that your in-laws do that you like/admire.
6. List some things that your in-laws do that bug you.
7. If you could change one thing about your relationship to your in-laws, what would it be? Discuss how you could discuss that with your in-laws in a way that would demonstrate honor and respect to them?

A FEW QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS (REGARDING YOU & YOUR SPOUSE'S MARRIED KIDS):

1. Discuss the difficulty of "letting go" of your children. Describe an aspect of letting go that was particularly difficult for you.
2. Do you think you have ever "blessed" your married children in regard to their becoming one with their spouses? If not, think of some ways in which you could communicate that blessing to them now.
3. Do you believe that you have given your son/daughter adequate "space" to truly "become one" with his/her spouse? If not, why not? If so, explain how.
4. Do you believe that your son-in-law/daughter-in-law truly feels like a part of your family? In what ways can you appropriately "invite them in"?