

TEXT: Genesis 29-30

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **RSVP for Sunday Now** - The RSVP for next Sunday's services at 8:00AM, 9:30AM, and 11 AM are now open. The RSVP forms will close on Saturday at 2PM. RSVP now at redeemerchurch.com/regathering
 - **Starting Point** - Starting Point is an hour-long class designed to help answer questions about Redeemer and help get you plugged into the church. It is also the first step towards covenant membership. Our next Starting Point class will be Sunday, January 31st from 4-5 PM in the worship center (masks encouraged). Childcare will be provided and a virtual option will be provided for those who need that option. Go to redeemerchurch.com/nextsteps to sign up today.
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BIG IDEA: The Love of Christ Makes Us Lovely Before God

Question: What makes you feel loved and unloved?

Read Genesis 29:1-10

1. Jacob is on the run from Esau and he just met God and has become a believer. The idea in Hebrew is he "popped up", energized by the encounter, and journeyed. Often, people come to faith and immediately they feel better, but, coming to saving faith is only the beginning of a journey of faith. **How can we, as a community, help and encourage each other to live lives marked by continuous repentance and belief?**

Read Genesis 29:11-25

2. Jacob met Rachel and immediately, he fell in love hard. All of a sudden Jacob, who is lazy and a liar becomes a hard worker and struck a deal with Rachel's father, Laban. For seven years, he will work hard for Laban and in exchange, Laban will give Rachel to Jacob to become his wife. However, Laban tricked him and gave him Leah instead to be his wife. Now, Jacob, who lied and cheated his family and excused it as necessary, is furious! **How are we like Jacob in this regard whenever people sin against us?**

Read Genesis 29:26-31

3. In the midst of this back and forth between Laban and Jacob, we see Leah. Leah, the unwanted. Jacob does not love her and even her father resorted into trickery just to have her married. But in all of this, the Scriptures says that God sees her, knows her, and loves her. So, the Lord blessed Leah with lots children but Rachel was barren (this is the third woman in this story who knows the devastating pain of infertility). **There is a popular teaching in American churches that says God loves us because we are lovable and irresistible. How is this the opposite of what the Bible teaches us about God's love for sinners?**

Read Genesis 29:32-35

4. We are all like Leah. But our God is not like Jacob. Jacob saw Rachel and found her attractive and so he rolled away a stone to catch her attention in the hope that she would love him. Our God saw us, a bunch of Leahs and rolled away another stone, the stone that covered the grave of Jesus to show us that he loves us. **How does this give you hope and encouragement?**

Read Genesis 30:22-23

5. God hasn't forgotten Rachel. Because God loves both Leah and Rachel. God gave Rachel a unique son. Leah's son, Judah, would father the bloodline of the Messiah that would save the nations. But Rachel's son, Joseph, would be the son who saves his people. **We all can identify with someone from this story. Like Jacob, some of us believe that if we find the right person or create the right life, then everything will be fine. Some of us are prideful and a little arrogant because we believe that we should be loved by virtue of who we are. Some of us are like Leah, trying to earn love by what we do. But what changes everything is knowing that you are lovely and you are lovable because of the lover of your soul. How can we rest more in this love?**