

**For Lack of a Just Zeal:  
Abdication and Revenge in the Promised Land  
Genesis 34  
Sunday, August 10, 2025**

**Individual Study/Small Group Discussion Questions**

1. Read Genesis 3:12. In this passage Adam blames Eve when a problem arises instead of taking ownership of the situation as the head. In Genesis 34:5 Jacob fails to respond to the situation as the head of the family should. How are these two situations similar? How might they have responded to these problems if they were properly fulfilling their roles within the family?
2. Reflect on Genesis 27 when Jacob deceives Isaac to receive Esau's blessing. Also look to Genesis 29 where Laban deceives Jacob into marrying Leah. Simeon and Levi exhibit this same nature of deceit in dealing with the Shechemites. Discuss how generational sin is weaved into the fabric of this week's passage. Think about your own life. What sins do you struggle with that might be the result of generational sin? What sins might you yourself be exhibiting and passing down to the next generation?
3. In Genesis 49:5-7 Jacob is about to die and uses some of his last words to rebuke the sins Simeon and Levi committed in this week's passage. What does this tell us about the severity of the actions of Simeon and Levi?
4. Read John 2:13-22. How does Jesus' response to injustice in the temple contrast with Jacob's response to injustice in Genesis 34? Was his passivity in the face of injustice sinful? What does Jesus' example in John 2 teach us about dealing with injustice?
5. Read Genesis 18:23-33. Note the Lord's concern for the lives of the innocent. Compare the perfect justice displayed by God in dealing with Sodom and Gomorrah to the "justice" displayed by Simeon and Levi in this week's passage.

## **God of Grace and God of Glory**

by Harry Emerson Fosdick

1930

God of grace and God of glory,  
On Thy people pour Thy power;  
Crown Thine ancient Church's story;  
Bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the facing of this hour,  
For the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil around us  
Scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways!  
Fears and doubts too long have bound us;  
Free our hearts to work and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the living of these days,  
For the living of these days.

Cure Thy children's warring madness,  
Bend our pride to Thy control;  
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
Rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Lest we miss Thy Kingdom's goal,  
Lest we miss Thy Kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places;  
Gird our lives that we may be  
Armored with all Christ-like graces  
In the fight to set men free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
That we fail not man nor Thee,  
That we fail not man nor Thee!

Save us from weak resignation  
To the evils we deplore;  
Let the search for Thy salvation  
Be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Serving Thee whom we adore,  
Serving Thee whom we adore.