

A Family of Scoundrels Genesis 35:9-26

Open – Foote family history (the Weird 9)

1. Jacob's Story (vv. 9-15)

- "Schemer" – learned from Rebekah how to deceive Isaac and how to favor one family member over another
- Story with Laban (tricked into 7 extra years of labor)
- "Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance. Jacob loved Rachel." – 29:27-18
- Wrestling with God – God chose name, Israel

Joseph's Dad's entire life was one of deception and favoritism

2. Rachel's Story (vv. 16-21)

- Her dad ruined her marriage
- Her sister // co-wife bore many sons while she was barren
- 30:1-8 // "Give me children or I shall die!" – envy and more scheming with maidservant (Bilhah)
- Finally has Joseph (means – "May he add", meaning one isn't enough)
- Dies in labor with Ben-omi (son of my misfortune) / Ben-yamin (son of good fortune/oath/right hand)
- Buried in Bethlehem, her weeping about children is a prophecy about Herod's massacre

Joseph's Mom's entire life was one of being undermined and overshadowed

3. The Brothers' Story (vv. 22-26)

- Sons of Leah, Bilhah, Zilpah, and Rachel
- Revenge for Dinah (Simeon and Levi) ch. 34
- Reuben and Bilhah – attempt to gain family control
- Judah and Tamar – attempt to
- Reuben and Judah – attempt to gain leadership of brothers

Joseph's Brothers were all about controlling and protecting their place in the family

God had a plan to **USE** and **REDEEM** all of the mess

- Jacob gets the promise - "kings shall come from your own body"
- Rachel is buried where the Messiah will be born
- Jesus is from the tribe of Judah – *through Tamar!*

Questions for reflection, study, and small groups:

- 1) What does your family tree look like?
- 2) What adversity or negative traits did you inherit through DNA or how you were raised?
- 3) What do these stories of God's "chosen people" tell you about God?
- 4) Why do you think these stories of the Patriarchs have fascinated people for thousands of years?
- 5) What about the stories of Jacob, Rachel, and the brothers gives you hope for your circumstances?
- 6) Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue His work to redeem messes in your family.