

Heartache & Hope

PASTOR MIKE YODER • GENESIS 29



WARM UP

If possible, how did you honor your mother on Mother's Day?

COMING UP

GRACEPOLARIS.ORG/CALENDAR

Sponsor a Summer Affinity Group! Visit GracePolaris.org/SummerGroups to learn more and apply.

Grace Students Family Cookout Wednesday, May 30, 6:30–8:30 p.m., Alum Creek Park North (221 West Main Street, Westerville)

Kids Lunch Club Mondays, June 4–August 6, 11:00 a.m., Abbey Lane Apartments (4301 Goldengate Oval, Columbus). Visit GracePolaris.org/LunchClub to learn more and sign up to serve.

WITNESS

- On your white board, list the names of people in your sphere of influence you're praying will come to know Jesus.
- Share any progress/updates. Pray together for God to use you and your Grace Group to influence these people for Jesus.

EXPLORE

- 1 What promise(s) has God given to followers of Jesus that you hold most dear? What promise(s) would you like Him to communicate or grant to you, if you could determine that? Be as current and transparent as possible.
- 2 Recall a time in which you were all alone and found, to your great relief, comfort from the presence of friends or family. What was that reunion like? Why was it so special?
- 3 Jacob found his seven years of labor easy because of his motivation (29:16–20). Can you relate? Do you have work or responsibilities in your life right now that are particularly difficult or easy because of your level of motivation?
- 4 Read 29:25. Describe the variety of emotions and thoughts you think Jacob experienced. Which are admirable? Which are disgraceful?
- 5 Has there been a time in your life when you experienced “you reap what you sow” or “what goes around comes around?” What emotions or thoughts did/do you have?
- 6 The Lord “saw” Leah (29:31,32) and the Lord “remembered” Rachel (30:22) in spite of their conduct and character. Why should this be encouraging and hope-giving to us?
- 7 What does this passage teach us about trying to devise our own ways to fulfill God's promises to us (or to “revise” what He's attempting to do in us)? Where are you tempted to do that in your own life?

PRAY

Even under ideal circumstances, being a mother is hard work. When difficulty with your husband, your parents, your children, and other people is added, mothering can seem impossible. Take time to pray for the mother(s) in your life and God's calling for her/them. Pray that she/they would lean on Him for strength, wisdom, and joy.