

SERIES TITLE: Disguised

PART 4: GOD'S SUCCESS

TEXT: GENESIS 30

INTRODUCTION.

Genesis follows the work of God, moving from creation, to the entrance of sin, to judgment, to the selection of a family through which the nations will be blessed. The promises of God to Abraham were passed to Isaac, and now to his son Jacob. His story takes up half of the book of Genesis. Jacob is not an admirable character, but God is gracious.

DISCUSSION.

What are some examples of “winning at all costs” in the world of sports, or business, or finance?

EXAMINATION.

30:1-5 If the first recorded words of a character indicate their personality, what do you think of Rachel?

Whenever Leah or Rachel gives birth, God opened the womb. But it never says God did that when one of the other wives gives birth. Why?

30:6-13 How would you characterize Rachel's response to the birth of two sons through Bilhah?

What about Leah's response to the sons from Zilpah?

30:14-43 Mandrakes were considered a treatment for infertility. What do you think of the deal Rachel makes with Leah to get them?

Why is it significant that Rachel trades for the mandrakes so that she can get pregnant, but it is Leah who conceives?

Why does God finally give Rachel a son after such a long delay?

Jacob's deal with Laban is very confusing to us today. However it happened, Jacob ended up wealthy. Why did God allow that?

Of the many explanations of how the speckled, spotted animals were produced, these articles offer two different theories.

[Jacob and the Spotted Sheep](#);

[Sex, Sticks, and the Trickster](#)

APPLICATION.

- Read Psalm 146:5, and share the added significance this has when you consider who Jacob is.
- The story demonstrates three mistakes made in chasing success:
 1. Engineering your own outcomes.
 2. Confusing your victory with blessing.
 3. Putting your trust in schemes.

Which one have you experienced the most and why?

- How does the following statement apply in your life? Even in the mess, mistakes, and misery, the LORD reigns.
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?