

SERIES TITLE: Disguised

PART 5: GOD'S PEACE

TEXT: GENESIS 31

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.

When someone tries to sneak away from a person or situation, what kinds of things are they trying to avoid?

EXAMINATION.

31:1-20 Reading Jacob's explanation to his wives, do you think he is being totally honest, or is he making himself look better than reality? Why or why not?

How is Jacob "tricking" Laban by leaving this way?

What are some possible reasons for why Rachel took the household gods?

31:21-32 What do you make of the dream Laban has before catching Jacob (v.24)? What is God telling him?

Laban sounds very upset. How sincere do you find him?

31:33-43 Compare the statements about God's protection and blessing of Jacob, with the picture of Rachel "protecting" the household gods with a lie.

31:44-55 How would you describe the purpose of the covenant that Jacob and Laban make?

Have you ever heard Laban's words in v.49 misused in a greeting card?

APPLICATION.

- The four responses to bad employment situations suggested from the text could apply to not only any job, but any relationship, situation or responsibility. Which one do you see as the most commonly used?
 1. You could get out.
 2. You could get even.
 3. You could get mad.
 4. You should pursue peace.
- Are there times when any of the first 3 responses could be correct? Explain.
- How should “sacred awe” or fear of God, influence how you react to conflict or mistreatment?
- In what arena (home, work, around friends) do you find it most challenging to be a peacemaker? Why?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?