

# *American Idols: Love*

*Genesis 29:1-35*

*“Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, “I’ll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel.”” - Gen. 29:18*

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As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**If you had to pick a favorite love song, what would it be and why?**

**Describe the first time you thought you “fell in love.” Looking back, is it different from the way you define love now? Explain.**

**Share a time you did something CRAZY for love!**

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Our passage today centers around Jacob who found himself seeking after the love of others to bring satisfaction and joy into his own life. His decisions led to several mistakes with love that cost him. Often times we find ourselves in the same boat...the love boat! When you are willing to sacrifice your values, time, money, etc. to gain the love of another person it is easy to put that pursuit ahead of God in your life. Today we’ll learn from the mistakes Jacob made and attempt to steer clear of making love an idol in our own lives.

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**Read Genesis 29:1-12;16-18 together.** Jacob’s first big mistake was being **MOTIVATED BY SIGHT.**

What “crazy” things did Jacob do in this passage at the sight of Rachel? What have you seen lately that made you go crazy?

How does verse 17 describe Rachel and Leah? If you know the rest of the story, who would you say is the better pick and why?

Do you believe Jacob had faith in God’s plan for his life at this point? When have you been blinded by your sight and lost God’s path/purpose for your life?

**2 Corinthians 5:7** tells us believers are to “live by faith, not by sight.” How would this have changed Jacob’s approach to life? How would it change yours right now?

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Jacob’s second mistake was being **DECEIVED BY LUST.** **Read verses 21-25 together.**

Lust deceives us into going after things we need to avoid. How was Jacob deceived? If you were there the morning after, what would you have said to Jacob?

See the following scriptures on Lust and the destruction it causes: 1) Samson: **Judges 16:15-19**, 2) Amnon: **2 Sam. 13:12-14**.

Read **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**. How can we use these verses to determine if we are acting in love or in lust?

How is this different than the romantic love the world peddles?

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**Read verses 26-30.** Finally, Jacob was **ENSLAVED BY DESIRE.**

If you were in Jacob's shoes, would you have cut the same deal with Laban? Why or why not?

How do we cut deals with ourselves to justify lusting after or desiring the wrong things?

**Proverbs 27:20** says "Death and Destruction are never satisfied, and neither are human eyes." What does this verse mean to you?

What does Psalm 73:25 have to say about what we should desire?

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**Pray:**

As your group closes take time to pray that God would release you from the desire to seek approval and love from others above Himself. Philippians 2:13 says "God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him." Pray for that desire and the power it takes to do what makes your Heavenly father happy. If you have given into making Love an idol, ask His forgiveness and be confident that you are still precious in His sight.

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**Connect:**

Take time to talk to someone individually about your idols. Confess to them and to God your sin and ask that person to keep you accountable in the days ahead.

Read the rest of Jacob's story through chapter 35 to see the turmoil his decisions brought on himself and his family because of the idols they clung to.