

Looking for Love

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GROUP ICE BREAKER

What is your favorite love song?

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- This week I won't compare myself to anyone.
- This week I'll say what I'm really thinking in great confidence and trust that God is at work.
- This week I won't obsess or worry over money.
- This week at school or work, instead of worrying about problems, I will be confident that God and I, together, can handle any problem.

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week in our “Confidence” teaching series, we look at what happens in Genesis 29-30, a story of when Jacob goes looking for love. Love is a core, basic human need, so even though the story of Jacob happened many years ago and took place in a drastically different culture, we still find bits of truth that help us understand what love is and how to define our love journey.

The story is found in Genesis 29-30, and through the characters of Jacob, Rachel, and Leah, we see the peaks and valleys of love. We see the joy and heartbreak, betrayal and trust, beauty and pain that comes in each love journey. Through these characters, we'll learn about God's heart for those who are not loved, and we'll learn that when we confess our wounds, hurts, sin, guilt, and shame, the love of God covers us, and the forgiveness of God heals us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where do you look for love?
2. Where, or rather who, do you give the most love to?
3. Our story starts at a well, with Jacob meeting Rachel. Why do you think the author tells us about Rachel's job as a shepherd? What do you think her role reveals about her character?
4. When Jacob first meets Rachel he 'went over and rolled the stone away from the mouth of the well and watered his uncle's sheep. Then Jacob kissed Rachel and began to weep aloud.' Why do you think Jacob showed so much emotion when first meeting Rachel?
5. Jacob served seven years so that he can marry Rachel, but we know that the father Laban brought Leah to Jacob instead. What do you feel or think when you have worked for something for so long and it doesn't end up the way you want?
6. Matt says that Leah's identity was 'Not Rachel.' Have you ever experienced having an identity that is similar to Leah's? Have you ever been the 'Not' in something?
7. Genesis tells us that the Lord saw that Leah was not loved. At times, God sees us in our full self when others cannot. Have you ever felt unseen? How do you feel knowing that God sees you fully?
8. Leah worked and tried to have Jacob see her, but in the end her efforts did not give way to love. God knew and God loved her even when Jacob failed. What does it look like to lean into God's love for us even when those around us fail us?
9. Matt prompts us to see this story as a story of God's love and grace. Where or how do you see this in the story of Jacob, Rachel and Leah?
10. What does it look like to bring your most honest, your most real, your most broken self to God this week?

