

## DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

*Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God we should commitment reading Scripture every day. There are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.*

### **Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 28:10-22**

This week we begin Jacob's life story. Some things to remember as we begin from Sunday. While Isaac has had encounters with God and the covenantal promise passed down to him, Jacob has not yet had that experience, nor has Esau. Today we will see whose lineage the covenant will continue. Read verses 10-16. What happens to Jacob (vs. 12)? Unlike Abraham or Isaac, God appears in a dream to Jacob. A very vivid dream at that. How does God introduce himself to Jacob (vss. 13-15)? Why do you think it is important at this juncture for God to reveal himself and declare Jacob as the son in whom the covenant will continue (vs. 15)? God tells Jacob he will return, for this land will belong to his descendants and God will make it happen. How does Jacob respond to this dream (vss. 16-19)? Awe and fear usually accompany personal meetings with the Almighty God. What does Jacob do next (vss. 20-22)? What is strange about this oath (vs. 21)? If God does this, then God will be my God. For Jacob, he is testing the dream to see if it is real or not and returning home will prove it was and God is his God. In the meantime, the rock marks the place where God was encountered and therefore worship should take place there. Consider a time you had a God encounter. Maybe it was during a prayer time or while singing a praise song. Maybe it was when you gave your life to Christ and felt that blessed assurance. Did you feel awe and reverent fear at the mighty yet loving work of God in your midst? If you have not had this experience, then begin this week praying about it, asking God to make himself real to you in a tangible way and pay attention so you don't miss it.

### **Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 29:1-14 (Genesis 24:10-32)**

Today we turn to chapter 29, where Jacob finally arrives in Paddam-Aran. What happens upon Jacob's arrival (vss. 1-14)? How is this story similar to that of Abraham's servant, when he went to get Isaac a wife (24:10-32)? There are a few minor differences, such as Jacob waters the flock rather than Rachel, and Jacob goes to get his own wife, rather than a servant doing it for him. But the stories are otherwise very similar. Why do you think Jacob weeps aloud after kissing Rachel? Do you see the hand of God directing this? Consider how many places and people there are, yet Jacob finds his relatives right away. When have you experienced God directing you to exactly where you needed to be? Do you listen for the promptings of God in your life? When you discover you have arrived are you filled with great joy like Jacob? How do you express this joy? Pray asking God to direct your steps today to lead you to exactly where he wants you to be. Listen often during the day to make sure you are on track. When you find the place where God meets your deepest needs, rejoice and give thanks to God.

### **Wednesday, June 14<sup>h</sup> – Genesis 29:15-35**

Before we continue, remember that Laban was the brother who tried to keep Rebekah from going right away and Jacob is not above deceiving others. Now read verses 15-26. Who is the deceiver and what was the deception? What does Laban offer as the solution to the matter (vs. 27)? What does Jacob do (vss. 28-30)? Jacob has two wives, not by choice but by deception. Why is this a problem (vs. 30)? Remember that Leah is an innocent bystander in this mess. How does God resolve the matter of being unloved (vs. 31)? At each birth, what is Leah's assertion (vss. 32-34)? By the time Judah is born, what does Leah declare? Maybe this means she has given up on Jacob loving her as he loves Rachel? Have you experienced a relationship in which you were not loved? Maybe a parent, spouse, child or perhaps a boss, leader or teacher. Even though we are unloved by people, we are loved by God. What does this reveal about God? About God's justice? How does God care for Leah? How does God care for and love you? Notice that it took four sons before God's love and blessings were enough. Is God enough for you when the world rejects you? Can you rest in his love and trust he holds your life just like he did Leah's? If you are hurting from lost love, pray to God to make his love real to you today. Take notice of how God's love has shown itself and praise him for what he has done and for who he is.

### **Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 30:1-24**

The best way I can describe today's text is Wow! Today is about who can have the most babies and Jacob is a very busy man. The war begins with the problem. What is the problem (vss. 1-2)? What is the solution (vss. 3-8)? Who gets upset about this solution and what is her counter-solution (vs. 9-13)? But the war is not over. In a lull in the action, what happens (vss. 14-16)? What is the result (vss. 17-20)? With the sixth son from Leah, what is her response upon Zebulun's birth (vs. 20)? Leah is still looking for respect from her husband. As you read verse 21, what happens? Surprise, it's a girl! But God's not done. In His mercy, what does God do (vss. 22-24)? We finish today with 11 of the 12 tribes of Jacob born. Do you think God meant it when he said the descendants would be more than the sand on the shores or the stars in the sky? Maybe not at this juncture, but this influx of descendants is a good start in that direction. What does this reveal to you about God? What does it reveal to you about humanity? Where do you see yourself in this story? Unloved like Leah? Frustrated like Rachel? Trapped in between like Jacob? How is God moving in your life as he moved in theirs? Spend some quiet time today, not asking anything but pondering where God is moving already in your life.

### **Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 30:25-43**

After all these children are born, what does Jacob decide it's time to do (vss. 25-26)? How does Laban respond (vss. 27-28)? To pay Jacob's wages means Laban is "buying him out," meaning he will give him cash, but Jacob cannot have the wives, children, or any of the wealth. What is Jacob's response to this offer (vss. 29-30)? How does Laban answer Jacob's request (vs.31)? It is as if Laban didn't even hear Jacob. So Jacob devises a plan to develop his own flock separate from Laban's. What is the plan (vss. 31-33)? How does Laban respond (vss. 34-36)? Is this a fair response? Once again we see Laban the deceiver. How does Jacob behave in response to what Laban has done (vss. 37-42)? Do you see the hand of God at work here? Do you also see the wisdom of the master shepherd Jacob as well? Jacob is not deceiving Laban. God is thwarting Laban's deception. What is the result of Jacob's labors (vs. 43)? Jacob becomes wealthy through honesty and hard work and help from God. What does this reveal to you about how God acts in the affairs of humans when deception takes place? What does this teach us about practicing deception against others? Have you ever manipulated things to get your way? Have you ever been manipulated by others? Spend some time in prayer today, asking for forgiveness and help in doing things honestly, trusting God will bless in due time.

### **Saturday, June 17<sup>st</sup> – In preparation for tomorrow's worship, please read Genesis 31:36-42.**