

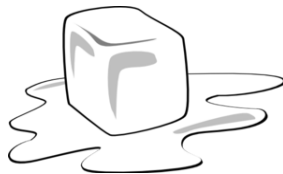
Home Group Study Guide

Sermon Title: The Real Housewives of Genesis

Sermon Series: Be You

Sermon Scripture: Genesis 29, Genesis 30:1-24, Matthew 1:1-2, 16, Genesis 50:20

Sermon Synopsis: It's not surprising that from a broken, insecure man like Jacob came a broken, insecure family. Through a crazy story that has more plot-line twists and turns than a "Real Housewives" season, Jacob ends up marrying two women: Rachel and Leah. The Bible describes Rachel as having a lovely figure and very beautiful. Leah, however, is described as having weak eyes. It's the Bible's way of saying, "She had a great personality." Being Rachel's sister, she was forever overlooked in the eyes of the world, and even in the eyes of her husband Jacob. But what is overlooked in this world is not overlooked by God. God chose both Leah and Rachel to play an important role in the saving of the world.



ICEBREAKER

According to Pastor Zach's translation of the Bible, Jacob's wife Rachel was "smokin' hot." The first time Jacob saw Rachel, he singlehandedly rolled away the stone from the opening of the well in order to give water to Rachel's flocks. This was a job that usually required several shepherds to accomplish. What's the craziest thing you've ever done to impress someone of the opposite sex?

Have you ever been overlooked or rejected in this world?

All of us will deal with rejection from time to time. It's important to remember what rejection is—a redirection.

Has God ever worked something good out of something bad in your life? Tell us about one of those times.



THINK & READ

Have someone read Genesis 29:13-31

Rachel is a picture of the woman who is beautiful on the outside, but she is unproductive on the inside. Loved by Jacob, but not able to give Jacob what he wants most—children. She's unable to get what she wants and so she became jealous of her sister Leah. Leah, on the other hand, was rejected and unloved by Jacob, but she was able to bear him many children. Both of them are miserable.

Who do you relate to more, Rachel or Leah? Why?

Approval and achievement: These are the two foundational things that drive most of our lives and our identities, and we often don't even know we are being driven by them. When it comes to your identity, which one of these two do you struggle with more: the approval of others or personal achievement?

Pastor Zach taught us that until God is enough for you, nothing in this world will be enough for you. There comes a time when you've got to reject approval of others and personal achievement and decide to praise God for who he made you to be. What are some steps you've taken or steps you need to take to get to a place of surrender where God really is "enough" for you?

Have someone read Genesis 29:35 & Matthew 1:1-2.

Jesus came from the line of Judah. Judah came from Leah, the one that Jacob never even wanted. The Savior of the world was born out of the rejection of a woman who was unloved by Jacob. If you are feeling rejected today, feeling like a failure, God has a plan to bring forth Jesus out of your life. Out of your rejection. Out of your failures. Out of your flaws. Out of your defects. God will turn rejection into a blessing.

Hebrews 12:2 says, "For the joy set before him he [Jesus] endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." The JOY set before Him was you and me. He chose the cross in order to save us.

Pastor Zach reminded us on Sunday, "You are chosen. You are absolutely chosen. You are God's 1st round draft pick. You didn't get cut. You're here because you're chosen." When you hear that God has chosen you, how does that make you really feel? Do you believe it? If not, why not?



PRAYER

Take individual prayer requests from those your Home Group. Then take some time to pray out loud for the people in your Home Group.