



From the message on Sept. 21, 2025

Series: LIFE

Text: Gen. 31

From the Message

Families are messy because they're made up of imperfect people. Those who love us most can also hurt us the deepest—and often, that's our family. Today we looked at the unhealthy branches in Jesus' family tree through the story of Jacob and Laban. In many ways they were cut from the same cloth—both were deceitful. However, God didn't give up on their story; He worked right in the middle of their mess. As you consider their story alongside your own, remember: God doesn't abandon "failed" family trees. He works through them to advance the gospel—and, in this case, to bring forth the Messiah.

Opening Interaction

Which dysfunctional pattern shows up in your family line (favoritism, secrecy, rage, avoidance, control)?

Read the passage and discuss

1. The only person you can control in family dynamics is yourself, how freeing and frustrating is that for you?
2. "But God"...was seen throughout the dysfunction of Jacob's relationship with his father-in-law. What confidence does that give you when you feel progress isn't being made on your behalf? What does this tell us about the power of prayer in family relationships?

3. Passivity is an enemy in relationships. If you think there is a problem in the relationship, then there probably is. Jacob and Laban leaned in after both being deceitful. What proactive steps would you need to take in your family to ensure passivity doesn't let unhealth fester?
4. At the end of their story, Laban and Jacob drew clear and agreed-upon boundaries. Maybe you need to do that with some family members, share with the group some ideas of boundaries, test them, and then plan to have a proactive conversation to install those boundaries.

Encourage Each Other Through Prayer

Talk and pray together. Ask, how can this group pray for you today?

Events and programs, calvary.church/events