

# JACOB: JACOB'S CHILDREN

Genesis Series – Study # 38

## Text: Genesis 29:31-30:24

### Unusual Marriage Customs in this Story

1. Polygamy – more than one \_\_\_\_\_
  - It was \_\_\_\_\_ commanded or recommended by God.
  - It almost always led to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - God's original plan was \_\_\_\_\_ man for \_\_\_\_\_ woman for \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Genesis 2:24-25)
  - This original plan was confirmed by \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Matthew 19:4-6)
  - This traditional marriage status is listed as a qualification for \_\_\_\_\_ in 1 Timothy 3:2, 12 and Titus 1:6.
2. Surrogate Mother (Substitute \_\_\_\_\_)
  - When a wife was \_\_\_\_\_, she could provide a substitute to bear children on her behalf.
  - Children born to the substitute wife were regarded as \_\_\_\_\_ to the main wife.
  - This was \_\_\_\_\_ commanded or recommended by God.

### The Story

1. Children by Leah, Round 1 (29:31-35)
  - Reuben – "\_\_\_\_\_, a son"
  - Simeon – "\_\_\_\_\_" or "one who hears"
  - Levi – "\_\_\_\_\_"
  - Judah – "\_\_\_\_\_"

2. Children by Bilhah, Rachel's servant (30:1-8)
  - Dan – "judged" or "\_\_\_\_\_"
  - Naphtali – "wrestling" or "my \_\_\_\_\_"
3. Children by Zilpah, Leah's servant (30:9-13)
  - Gad – "good \_\_\_\_\_"
  - Asher – "\_\_\_\_\_"
4. Children by Leah, Round 2 (30:14-21)
  - Issachar – "wages" or "\_\_\_\_\_"
  - Zebulun – "\_\_\_\_\_"
  - Dinah (daughter)
5. Children by Rachel (30:22-24; 35:16-18)
  - Joseph – "may he \_\_\_\_\_"
  - Benjamin – "son of the \_\_\_\_\_"

### Application

1. God's plans cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ by our messes.
2. God can bring \_\_\_\_\_ out of our messes  
(Romans 8:28)
3. We should still try to avoid the messes because, even though God can bring good out of them, they are still \_\_\_\_\_!
4. God champions the cause of the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Marriage, as God intended it, is a great \_\_\_\_\_ and should be \_\_\_\_\_ and protected.
6. No person (even a loved spouse) can meet \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_; only God can.