

The God of the Journey

Genesis 29:1–30

Series:	Genesis
Date:	September 20, 2026
Text:	Genesis 29:1–30 (ESV)

Purpose of This Guide

This guide helps your group explore God's providence in Jacob's journey.

The sermon emphasized five truths:

1. God directs our steps even in ordinary seasons.

The Christian life is mostly lived in the routine and the unremarkable. Yet it is precisely in those stretches of road that God is often doing His deepest work. Jacob's long journey from Bethel to Haran was not wasted time. It was guided time.

2. God's providence is not only wise, it is kind.

God did not simply lead Jacob to Haran and leave him to survive. He prepared a gift for Jacob in Rachel. The Lord gives His people both what they need and, in His grace, what brings them joy.

3. God uses difficult people and painful circumstances to shape His people.

Laban was not an obstacle to God's plan. He was an instrument of it. The same God who gave Jacob the encouragement of Bethel appointed the hardship of Haran for Jacob's good.

4. The deceiver being deceived is not coincidence. It is grace.

Jacob's experience of Laban's betrayal was a mirror held up to his own character. God used it not to punish Jacob but to humble him, expose his weaknesses, and begin transforming him into the man God intended him to be.

Key Text: Genesis 29:1-30

Part 1: Opening Questions

1. The sermon opened with the observation that some moments with the Lord are so special we wish we could stay in them. Can you think of a time when God gave you a mountaintop experience, a moment of unusual encouragement or clarity?

2. The Hebrew in verse 1 says Jacob "lifted up his feet," suggesting energy and renewed purpose after his encounter at Bethel. How does encouragement from God's Word affect the way you move through daily life?

Part 2: Study Questions (Engaging the Text)

3. Jacob traveled hundreds of miles into unfamiliar territory, arrived at a random well, struck up a conversation with strangers, and discovered he was exactly where he needed to be. The sermon called this providence, not luck or coincidence. How does Jacob's experience illustrate the biblical principle that a person often reaps what he sows, while still remaining under God's covenant grace?

4. Isaiah 48:17 describes God as one who leads His people in the way they should go. What does it look like practically to trust that God is directing your steps in a season that feels ordinary, uneventful, or even directionless?

5. Genesis 29:20 describes Jacob's seven years of labor for Rachel as feeling like only a few days because of his love for her. The sermon called this one of the most beautiful statements in all of Scripture about human love. What does this tell us about the character of God and how He uses love in our lives to shape our willingness to sacrifice and endure?

6. The moment Jacob woke up and discovered Leah beside him instead of Rachel is one of the most jarring scenes in Genesis. The sermon drew a direct parallel to Jacob's own deception of his father Isaac. What does this teach us about the character of God?

7. How does Jacob's willingness to continue serving Laban after being deceived illuminate the relationship between God's sovereignty, human responsibility, and the fulfillment of His covenant promises in Genesis 29?

8. The sermon made this statement: "What Jacob could not learn in comfort, he would learn through adversity. That is often the Lord's way with His people." Why do you think God so frequently uses hardship as one of His primary tools of transformation?

Part 3: Application Questions

10. The sermon described Laban as "an instrument in the hands of God to humble Jacob and chip away at the self-reliance and deceit that have marked his character." Have you ever had a Laban in your life, a difficult person, a frustrating relationship, a disappointing circumstance that you can now see how God used it to shape you?

11. What difficult season are you being asked to trust God in right now, and how can the group pray?