Back to the Beginning: What Goes Around Comes Around
Gen 29:1-30

1. The focus of this passage is on Jacob finding a wife, since in order for God's promise of descendants to come true a wife was needed! What problems arose from Jacob trying to bring this situation about? God's plan for marriage is found in Gen. 2:18-24 and Eph. 5-6; how do Jacob's actions stack up with what God desired? What should we make of Jesus' words on the subject of marriage in Matt 19:1-12?

2. Outline how God was sovereignly at work despite Jacob's scheming and plans. What do you think of the statement, "There are no coincidences just divine appointments"? Does this mean that God has a blueprint mapped out for everyone's lives? If so, where does human choice fit in? If not, then where does Psalm 37:23-24 fit in?

3. How might Jacob's character have been shaped during his experiences of Laban's deception and his years of service to Laban?

4. It is sometimes said that "happiness consists of having someone to love, something to do, and something to look forward to." Discuss this and consider whether it is true, partially true, or just nonsense.

5. Can you identify in any way with Jacob being deceived in the way he had deceived others? In Jacob's case this was a negative experience, but are you able to share with the group a situation, either negative or positive, in which the way you treated others ended up being the way in which you were treated?

6. We don't know exactly how Jacob was fooled or what part either Leah or Rachel played in the deception. What might be some plausible reasons for the 'successful' ruse.

7. Prov. 21:30, Gen.50:20 highlight God's sovereignty over everything while Gal 6:7 highlights the consequences of one's action. How would you describe what a Christian should do as far as making plans and working towards those plans goes?

8. The Sermon was titled 'What Goes Around Comes Around'. Some would consider this to be the same as the 'Karma' principle in Hinduism? It was suggested in the sermon that it actually is a biblical concept, but not always. Do you agree with this? Why or why not? When is it not true?