

# Overruled

Genesis 29:31-30:24 | August 9, 2020

**Context:** Although muddled and much like a Netflix docudrama, our passage records God's power at work in a messy family. Today we will see the birth of Jacob's eleven sons and one daughter and how God OVERRULES in people and circumstances to fulfill his promise and make his name known. To him alone be the glory!

## To fulfill His promises, God will:

1. Overrule in our \_\_\_\_\_ (29:31-35, 30:17-21, 30:22-24)
  - "The Lord saw..." (29:31)
  - "God listened.." (30:17)
  - "Then God remembered..." (30:22)
2. Overrule in our struggle with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (30:1-20)
  - "Give me children or I will die." (30:1-2)
  - Bilhah & Zilpah (30:3-12)
  - "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes..." (30:14)

## How does this passage point to Christ?

1. Christ was broken for us on the cross so we can be forgiven and reconciled to God the Father (Luke 23:33-34, 46, Matthew 26:26-28). Have you trusted in Christ's death so that you can be forgiven by God and in his resurrection so that you can have a righteous standing before God?
2. Christ has come to help the brokenhearted (Isaiah 61:1-3, Luke 4:18). He is present to help you in your pain and suffering. Will you reach out to him? He is available to you!
3. Christ gave up control or yielded his rights and sought the Father's will (Philippians 2:6-8, Luke 22:42).

**To fulfill His promises,**

## Discussion Questions:

1. Do you know anyone who has come to Christ personally through difficult circumstances? What is their story?
2. God promises to make us more like Christ in our character (Romans 8:29). Name a situation that God has used (or is using) to bring you to the end of yourself and bring himself glory.
3. How can you use this passage to help others follow Jesus?



## Questions for Parents to use with their children:

- 1. Take a moment and share your favorite experience or thing about your family? Next, share your least favorite memory or thing about your family? Ouch!!**
- 2. Read Genesis 29:31-30:25 out loud together. Have each person share what they find messy or weird or saddening about Jacob's family.**

*Answer: Jacob had two wives. Leah was unloved by Jacob (29:31). Rachel was jealous of her Leah (30:1). Jacob and Rachel fought (30:1-2). Jacob had children with multiple women (Leah, Bilhah, Zilpah). Rachel and Leah competed with each other regarding having children (30:3-13). Leah was angry at Rachel (30:15)*

- 3. Next have each person share how they saw God working in Jacob's family.**

*Answer: God saw that Leah was unloved and so he enabled her to have children (29:31). She was mistreated by Jacob and Rachel and so God favored her. Later on in the story, God also enabled Rachel to have children (30:22)*

- 4. How does this story point us toward Jesus?**

*Answer: Jesus came from the tribe of Judah. This makes Leah Jesus's great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great, grandmother!! God enabled Leah to give birth to the savior of the world. Good things can come from messy families. Sometimes families are messy. But the only person who was never messy or sinful came from a family that was. This gives us hope. Jesus, although he was perfect, entered into a messy world and through a messy family line. Throughout the years, Jesus's family were not as faithful to God as they should have been. However, Jesus still came. And Jesus enters into our messy families and messy situations to bring his love, light, and peace. Jesus came for messy families. Jesus ultimately came to bring us to God. Jesus came for the brokenhearted. Read Isaiah 61:1-2 and Luke 4:18. Jesus during his earthly ministry ministered to many who were brokenhearted. Even today he still helps and heals our broken hearts.*

- 5. How can you apply this crazy messy story?**

*Answer: Look to Jesus to be forgiven of your sins and reconciled to God. Look to Jesus if you have a broken heart. Put your hope in God and Jesus if you find yourself in a messy family or situation where you are unloved, rejected, or broken. Our answers to our sin and messy situations is a person. Jesus.*