

## Genesis 34 – Hope for the Hopeless

### August 9, 2020 Discussion Notes

Everyone is encouraged to bring a Bible

(Phone apps are good for reading together in the same translation. Study Bibles give help with interpretation.)



### HOPE FOR THE HOPELESS

- OUR WORLD SEEMS HOPELESS
- THE REAL PROBLEM IS INSIDE US
- BUT THERE IS HOPE IN JESUS



#### Questions:

1. Think about a favorite “come back” story (a time when you, someone else, a sports team, etc. came back and succeeded against all odds). What happened? What was the experience like?
2. How important do you think hope is in life?
3. What do you remember about the sermon (review the main points above)? Did anything impact or challenge you? Do you have any questions?
4. Read 1 Kings 19:1-18 (In the previous chapter, Elijah experiences dramatic miracles from God and what appears to be a national revival in Israel. It must have been the high point of his life and ministry. But in 1 Kings 19, the wicked queen Jezebel vows to kill Elijah and he is sent into an emotional tailspin.)
  - a) Why do you think Elijah felt so hopeless even after all the miracles God had done? How was he viewing the world?
  - b) What were some initial ways that Elijah’s depression was being addressed? (see vv. 5-8)
  - c) What do you think is the significance of the wind, earthquake, and fire, followed by the gentle whisper?
  - d) What is Elijah’s explanation for his discouragement (in verses 10 and 14)? Do you think his perspective was valid?
  - e) What does Elijah discover was inaccurate about his perspective?
  - f) What do you feel hopeless or discouraged about? Based on God’s message to Elijah, what do you think His message to you might be?
5. Read Luke 24:13-36 (this story takes place on the Sunday after Jesus was crucified)
  - a) What were these men discussing as they walked?
  - b) Why did they feel hopeless? (see vv. 20-21)
  - c) Why does Jesus call them foolish?
  - d) Do you think it is foolish for a Christian to be hopeless? Why or why not?
  - e) What caused their hearts to start coming to life again?
  - f) What does this story tell us about times of trial and confusion?
  - g) What advice would you give to a Christian who is feeling hopeless?
6. Read Proverbs 13:12.
  - a) Why do you think our hearts are affected this way?
  - b) Read 2 Peter 3:9. What does this verse (which is referring to Christ’s eventual return) tell us about why God might defer our hope at times?
7. Spend some time praying for more hope in your lives. And pray for any specific needs in your group.