

Step Into Scripture: Shadows

Day 22 Reading: Genesis 30—31 and Day 22 of Step Into Scripture

Week 4 Lesson: God's Sovereignty over Sin

This week, we are studying the lineage of Abraham, highlighting God's covenant promises found in Genesis, including the creation of a great nation, inheritance of land, and innumerable descendants. While the narrative presents characters like Abraham, Jacob, and their families as flawed, God's grace and promises prevail despite their sins and shortcomings. The recurring theme of deception in their lives showcases how moral failings can influence future generations but also illustrates God's unchanging faithfulness. While our actions have consequences, God's plans will be accomplished regardless of our failures, demonstrating His grace and commitment to humanity.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think the promises made by God to Abraham in Genesis 12 and 15 indicate about His intentions for humanity?
 - God promised Abraham a great nation, blessings, and that all peoples on earth would be blessed through him.
 - How can understanding God's promises to Abraham influence the way you view your own life and the potential for blessings in it?
2. Why do you think the Bible often highlights the flawed behaviors of significant characters like Abraham and Jacob?
 - The book of Genesis shows a lot of narratives about people making bad choices without scripture condemning or affirming them.
 - In what ways can recognizing the imperfections of biblical characters help you in your own personal growth or during challenging times?
3. How does the deception seen in Abraham's family reflect on the consequences of one's actions, especially in light of the saying 'What we do in moderation, our children will do in excess'?
 - Deception is a running theme through Abraham's family, and these actions had lasting consequences.
 - Can you think of a time when you saw a pattern of behavior in your family or environment? How did that impact your choices?
4. What does Romans 9:6-7 mean when it states that not everyone physically descended from Abraham is considered his child?
 - The true children of Abraham are those who are part of God's promise and plan, not just those with his bloodline.
 - How does this perspective on being a part of God's family challenge or change how you think about your own faith journey?
5. Considering that God's blessings were given to flawed individuals, what does this say about the nature of God's grace?
 - God blessed humanity through Abraham and Jacob despite their shortcomings, showing His love and grace.

- How does understanding God's grace in the lives of imperfect people help you show grace to others and to yourself?

Prayer:

- Ask for prayer requests from the group.
- Pray for guidance to apply the teachings on God's promises in their lives.
- Ask God to help them recognize and overcome patterns of deception in their own lives.
- Pray for a deeper understanding of God's grace in spite of human shortcomings.