

# SATURDAY & SUNDAY Discipleship Guide

Message Title: *"Empowering Relationships"*

Series: *"Family Matters"* | Week of June 25-July 1, 2017

## Main Thought:

Life's most precious relationships last and flourish as we pray for others while observing the following principles:

1. Respect boundaries: stay within our realm and avoid over reach.
2. Equip rather than enable: train or confront rather than rescue and coddle.
3. Liberate rather than manipulate: respect freedom rather than control or obligate.
4. Let go rather than hold on: allow life and consequences to instruct.

This will preserve the relationship and cultivate a healthy climate for needed connection in the future when it may be most needed and desired.

## Main Passages:

Scripture profiles the unusual love story of Jacob, whose name would later be changed to Israel. From his direct line would come the eventual birth of 12 sons and the formation of the nation we know today as Israel. However, because of a conniving, manipulative, and deceitful father-in-law, Jacob's marriage to his beloved Rebekah was nearly undermined.

*"So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. <sup>21</sup>Then Jacob said to Laban, 'Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.'<sup>22</sup>So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. <sup>23</sup>But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her...<sup>25</sup>And in the morning, behold, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, 'What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?'<sup>26</sup>Laban said, 'It is not so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. <sup>27</sup>Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.'<sup>28</sup>Jacob did so, and completed her week..." (Genesis 29:20-23, 25-28 ESV)*

*"Now Jacob heard that the sons of Laban were saying, 'Jacob has taken all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has gained all this wealth.'<sup>2</sup>And Jacob saw that Laban did not regard him with favor as before.<sup>3</sup>Then the Lord said to Jacob, 'Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you.'" (Genesis 31:1-3 ESV)*

*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...<sup>5</sup>a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; <sup>6</sup>a time to seek, and a time to lose..." (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 5-6 ESV)*

### **Reflection:**

- What especially stands out to you from the main thought and the Bible passages above?

### **Application:**

- Share a time when you were able to apply insights from today's discussion to a real life situation. What happened, what did you learn, and how has it influenced both parties?
- What is one take away from today's discussion that you can focus on the most?

### **Group Prayer:**

- Pray for the truths from today's discussion to gain traction in the important relationships of group members.
- Pray for God to touch a specific friend or loved one to respond to your invitation to group or church. Pray that they would come to know Christ personally.
- Pray for any serious needs a group member may have.



For more information, please visit [pearlside.org](http://pearlside.org) or download our Pearlside App.