THE GOSPEL PROJECT FOR STUDENTS

UNIT 3 | SESSION 2

GOD'S GIFT OF LOVE

Genesis 29:21-35

MAIN POINT:
Love is a gift from God and is meant to be shared with those around us.

HIS STORY

- **How do you think this might have caused Jacob to think deeply about his own lies and deception toward Esau?**
- **What would you say to someone who says the Bible allows a husband to have multiple wives?**
- **What does we learn from this account about God's love toward those who often go unloved by others?**
- **Why should God's never-ending, never-failing love be a constant source of encouragement for us in all aspects of our lives?**

In Defense

Unlike the atheistic worldview, the Christian worldview can easily account for the existence of love. Atheism must reduce "love" to nothing more than a chemical process in the brain or a feeling we get under the right biological conditions and nothing more. Such a belief is understandably difficult for many atheists, who have to admit that their "love" for their kids can be reduced to the chemical and biological impulses of their brains. The struggle is this: Many have an intuition that love is real and something more than a collection of chemicals. However, the Christian worldview offers a comprehensive picture of love, including the emotional feelings we get as well as how love goes beyond emotions and into action for someone else's good. The Christian worldview believes love is a real thing, because God—who is love—is real and has first loved and pursued us. Therefore, we can in turn genuinely love others.

Christ Connection

Jacob's love for Rachel was deep, persistent, and yet flawed by sin; he played favorites. However, Jesus loved the world and gave His life to save sinners, including the outcasts and the unloved.

Essential Doctrine

God is Love | To say that God is love is to say that God is the essence of love, or that perfect love both resides and resonates within God Himself—one God in three Persons. The imperfect love that human beings share between one another is a dim reflection, a sign that points to the perfect love that resides within God. The greatest act of love by God toward humans isn't the giving of earthly goods but the giving of Himself in Christ so that we might become reconciled to Him.

OUR MISSION

HEAD

- **Why is it a good thing that God disciplines those He loves?**
- **How has God's discipline been a positive thing in your own life?**

HEART

- **Do you tend to think of God as an overbearing judge in the sky or as a Father who loves His children and wants their best?**
- **What ways might God show His love for us? What is by far the greatest way God has shown His love for humanity?**

HANDS

- **Why should Christians actively seek to reflect the love of Christ to others?**
- **What can you do to show someone who may feel unloved how much he or she is loved by God?**