

This passage tells the story of Jacob's marriage to sisters Leah and Rachel. Jacob's actions mirror many people today who put the weight of their deepest hopes and desires solely on their spouses and ultimately crush their marriages with unreal expectations.

- How does the world's view of romantic love differ from God's view?
- Describe what your picture of an ideal marriage looks like. What do you think it takes to achieve the type of marriage that honors God?
- Discuss some of the successful marriages you have seen. How did these couples achieve an ideal marriage?
- Why do you think so many people try to find fulfillment through relationships rather than finding it through God?
- Describe a time when you tried to find fulfillment and satisfaction through a relationship rather than finding it through God. What did you learn from this experience and how did it ultimately affect your relationship with both God and the other person?
- Describe how different your marriage or dating relationship is when you put God first?
- How have you seen unmet expectations like Jacob had in Genesis 29 affect your marriage or your relationships with others?
- Who or what is your ONE in your life right now? What specific things can you do to ensure that God is your ONE?

## NEXT STEPS

Here are some specific things you can do this week to help you have a stronger marriage or prepare for a marriage that honors God.

Consider reading *Rescue Your Love Life* by Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend with your spouse or LifeGroup. This book will teach you how to set realistic expectations within your marriage, as well as how to improve communication and enhance romance. A study guide for the book is also available. You can learn more about the book and study guide at <http://www.cloudtownsendstore.com/reyololibo.html>.

Follow Dr. Kim Kimberling on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/kimkimberling>. Dr. Kimberling is a licensed marriage counselor who posts a marriage booster each day on Twitter. These tweets suggest actions designed to strengthen and grow marriages.

Use these prayer tips to guide your time with God this week to expand your conversations both in person and online:

- Confess to God those things or relationships that you are putting before Him to gain satisfaction.
- Ask God in prayer to help you keep Him number one in your life. Ask Him to help you overcome the distractions in your life.
- Ask God in prayer to help you have the right kinds of expectations in your marriage and other relationships.
- Pray for your spouse that they will put God first. If you aren't married, pray for your future spouse.
- Share with God in prayer those areas in your life that you feel unsatisfied. Ask God to help you find satisfaction.