

- Before we begin chapter 34, review the members of Jacob’s family. Those who are most prominent in this chapter are highlighted in bold. What do you notice about them?

<u>Leah</u>	<u>Zilpah (Leah’s servant)</u>	<u>Rachel</u>	<u>Bilhah (Rachel’s servant)</u>
1 – Reuben	7 – Gad	11 – Joseph	5 – Dan
2 – Simeon	8 – Asher	<i>12 – Benjamin</i>	6 – Naphtali
3 – Levi			
4 – Judah			
9 – Issachar			
10 – Zebulun			
Dinah			

Read Genesis 34:1-4

- When have we heard about Shechem before? (cf. 34:19)
- What do we learn about Shechem from these verses?
- How old is Dinah at this time?
 - Genesis 30:19-24 – ¹⁹ Then Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth son. ²⁰ “God has given me a good gift,” Leah said. “This time my husband will honor me because I have borne six sons for him,” and she named him Zebulun. ²¹ Later, Leah bore a daughter and named her Dinah. ²² Then God remembered Rachel. He listened to her and opened her womb. ²³ She conceived and bore a son, and said, “God has taken away my shame.” ²⁴ She named him Joseph: “May the Lord add another son to me.”
 - Genesis 37:2,26-28 – At 17 years of age, Joseph tended sheep with his brothers. The young man was working with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father’s wives, and he brought a bad report about them to their father...²⁶ Then Judah said to his brothers, “What do we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? ²⁷ Come, let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay a hand on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh,” and they agreed. ²⁸ When Midianite traders passed by, his brothers pulled Joseph out of the pit and sold him for 20 pieces of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took Joseph to Egypt.

Read Genesis 34:5-7

- Verse 5 tells us that “Jacob heard that Shechem had defiled his daughter Dinah, but since his sons were with his livestock in the field, he remained silent until they returned.” What questions come to mind here?
- Note that Shechem’s father (Hamor) comes to speak with Jacob, but since Jacob’s sons arrive home at that same time, he speaks not only to Jacob but also to his sons.

Read Genesis 34:8-12

- What concessions did Hamar (the tribal chief) make to try and get Dinah as his daughter-in-law? Was he sincere?
- When Shechem entered the conversation, he expressed that he was willing to pay any price in order to get Dinah. What did that express to her brothers?

Read Genesis 34:13-17

- What is wrong with the request made here that Shechem and the others be circumcised?
- What is wrong with the suggestion that they would intermarry with them?

Read Genesis 34:18-24

- To convince the townsmen to become circumcised, what arguments did Hamor and Shechem use?

Read Genesis 34:25-31

- How was it that two young men were able to kill and plunder the entire city?

- Characterize Jacob’s rebuke of his sons.
- Note: “Let it not be forgotten that Moses, the man through whom the Holy Spirit recorded this narrative, was himself a descendant of Levi. He surely did not hesitate to describe the sin of his ancestor in all of its ugliness and depravity.”
(People’s Bible Commentary: Genesis, p.285)
- Why is this chapter recorded in the Bible?

Genesis 49

Then Jacob called his sons and said, “Gather around, and I will tell you what will happen to you in the days to come.

² Come together and listen, sons of Jacob;
listen to your father Israel:

³ Reuben, you are my firstborn,
my strength and the firstfruits of my virility,
excelling in prominence, excelling in power.

⁴ Turbulent as water, you will no longer excel,
because you got into your father’s bed
and you defiled it—he got into my bed.

⁵ Simeon and Levi are brothers;
their knives are vicious weapons.

⁶ May I never enter their council;
may I never join their assembly.
For in their anger they kill men,
and on a whim they hamstring oxen.

⁷ Their anger is cursed, for it is strong,
and their fury, for it is cruel!
I will disperse them throughout Jacob
and scatter them throughout Israel.

⁸ Judah, your brothers will praise you.
Your hand will be on the necks of your enemies;
your father’s sons will bow down to you.

⁹ Judah is a young lion —
my son, you return from the kill.
He crouches; he lies down like a lion
or a lioness—who dares to rouse him?

¹⁰ The scepter will not depart from Judah
or the staff from between his feet
until He whose right it is comes
and the obedience of the peoples belongs to Him...