



Life Group Sermon Guide Questions 25 JANUARY 2026



“This Is Not How Things
Are Supposed To Be”

Read Genesis 34

Opening: What emotions did Genesis 34 stir in you as you heard or read it—confusion, anger, grief, discomfort, numbness? Why do you think this text produces such a strong response? Why do you think Scripture includes stories like this instead of only stories of faithfulness and victory?

What Is The Story About?

- Pastor Chad suggested that the central theme of Genesis 34 is **failure**, not any single character. Where do you see failure repeated throughout the chapter? Which failure stood out to you most, and why?
- In the sermon, Dinah was described as being:
 - a sexual object
 - a bargaining chip
 - a symbol of family honor
 - a justification for violence

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Do you agree with that assessment or not? Why?

- The sermon warns that we often **use suffering as leverage** rather than responding with care. Where do you see this happening in culture, politics, religion, or social media? What are subtle ways Christians might do this without realizing it?
- What does it practically look like to “go to Dinah” instead of merely speaking about her? In your own life, what would compassion before indignation look like? Think about what this looked like for Jesus.

Where Is God When He Is Silent?

- God is not mentioned at all in Genesis 34. How does God’s silence affect the way you read this chapter? Does it make the story harder—or more honest?
- The sermon suggested that God’s silence is not indifference, but a picture of the world when humanity is left to itself. How does this help you think about suffering, evil, and unanswered questions today?
- **Read Romans 1:29-30:** What does Paul say the world looks like when we no longer want to hear from God and he remains silent?

Can Israel Fail?

- Genesis 34 shows Israel—God’s chosen people—acting unjustly and violently. Why is it important to recognize that God’s people are not immune to moral failure?
- The sermon warns against loyalty to a cause, movement, or nation outweighing our commitment to righteousness and justice. What are the dangers when we cannot call out wrong within groups we support or identify with?
- Genesis 34 demonstrates that even God’s chosen people can commit horrific acts. How does this truth challenge popular narratives that certain groups, leaders, or nations are beyond criticism?



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- **Read 1 Kings 22.** Micaiah had to speak against his nation, his people, and his king, but 400 other prophets would not. Why would so many not speak up? Why do you think Micaiah did?
- At the end of his life, Jacob curses Simeon and Levi for their violence, showing that God does not stand with Israel when they act wickedly. What does this teach us about discerning when God approves or disapproves of actions done in His name?

Why Does God Include This Story?

- Why do you think God includes this story in Scripture?

