

BE A BRINGER

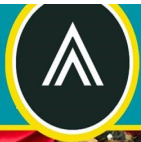
"40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus...." John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

"Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;...." I Samuel 12:23a



MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

Denise Carter | Ukraine



PRAY

- Pray for the seven who will begin preparations for baptism this summer.
- Pray for the 9 pre-teen children that attend the group that I lead on Thursdays.
- Pray for Pastor Oleg to have wisdom as he leads our church in Petrovka.
- Pray for preparations of our two weeks of summer camps for our children and our teenagers.
- Pray for a just and lasting peace in Ukraine. Pray for the missile and drone attacks to stop and for the people who have lost loved ones in the war.

PRAISE

- Praise God for great visits with my churches and supporters while in the States.
- Praise God for starting our Awana Club and for the children attending on a regular basis.

BUT GOD
changes everything

Handout: 05/04/25

Study Date: 05/11/25

We Are Dysfunctional, BUT GOD Functions

"Yet your father deceived me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not allow him to hurt me."
—Genesis 31:7

In this verse, Jacob's words reveal the emotional weight of his experiences with Laban. As we reflect on this situation, we can connect it to our own lives. Many times, we may find ourselves in a place of difficulties or unfair treatment by those close to us. It evokes a feeling of frustration and helplessness, which Jacob surely faced. Yet, he understood that God was genuinely with him. We must remember that God sees our struggles and reacts even when we feel trapped.

Jacob's nine years of hard work for Laban showcases great tenacity and dedication. Yet, instead of rewarding hard work with fairness, Laban continually changed the terms of Jacob's wages, leaving him in a state of uncertainty. It can be disheartening to work diligently and not receive the recognition we expect. However, as Jacob articulates in this scripture, it is vital to look beyond our circumstances. When we focus solely on our troubles, we can overlook the hand of God preserving and guiding us through it.

This verse serves as a reminder for us to place our trust in God. He is actively working in our lives, even when we cannot see the way ahead. When Laban tried to undermine Jacob's success, God ensured that Jacob would not suffer harm. God's involvement brought about positive outcomes despite the odds. This leads us to recognize that no matter how dynamic our situations may become, God's plan will always prevail. Our trust in Him is paramount because even through challenging seasons, He is there leading us into His promises.

Another essential aspect of this verse is the idea of character. Jacob's journey teaches us about maintaining integrity. He could have resorted to dishonesty when faced with Laban's tricks, but instead, Jacob stayed true to his calling. We can aspire to similarly honor God in our actions, regardless of the pressures or temptations present in our own lives.

Resource: Scripturesavvy.com

KEY VERSE

Genesis 31:7 (NKJV)

"Yet your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not allow him to hurt me."

Read Genesis 31:1-9 Every Day

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Genesis 25:24-28, 31:1-2,7; James 3:14-16; Romans 7:18

Know That Every Family Is Dysfunctional

1. What kind of attitude is displayed by Laban towards Jacob in Genesis 31:2? How did Laban's sons provoke this attitude according to Genesis 31:1?
2. What do we learn from Romans 7:18 in regard to our "*flesh*" where "*nothing good dwells*"? Are any of us or any of our families *perfect*?

Tuesday: Genesis 31:3; II Corinthians 4:6-7

Realize God Can Function In Your Dysfunction

3. In Genesis 31:3 the Lord speaks to Jacob and gives him direction. What does the Lord tell him to do and what promise does the Lord make to him?
4. What truth is II Corinthians 4:6-7 trying to instill in us as believers? Whose "*power*" will work through us despite the dysfunction in our lives?

Wednesday: Genesis 31:4; Psalm 119:105

Follow God's Leading

5. How is Jacob executing his faith in God by calling for his wives in Genesis 31:4? What is he going to tell them?
6. How is God's Word depicted in Psalm 119:105? How is it "*a lamp to our feet and a light to our path*"?

Thursday: Psalm 46:1; I John 4:4; Genesis 31:9; James 1:17

Grow By Seeing God In Your Dysfunction

7. According to Psalm 46:1, how will God's "presence" be demonstrated in our lives?
8. As followers of Christ, how are we defined in I John 4:4? How will our Father in Heaven protect us and from whom? Who is He "*greater than*"?
9. In James 1:17 we are given the origin of "*Every good gift and every perfect gift*." Who delivers these to us from above?

Friday: Hebrews 11:21; II Corinthians 5:7

Keep Trusting In God

10. Referencing Hebrews 11:21, we see a picture of Jacob worshipping and "*blessing the sons of Joseph*." What did this say about his *level* of faith?
11. How do YOU interpret the scripture of II Corinthians 5:7? What words would you use to present this scripture to a new believer?
12. Have YOU ever had an instance in your walk when you had difficulty trusting in God? How did you overcome it?