

Lesson: Genesis 28-30

Everything happens for a reason. The family we're born into and how they raise us, the people we meet, how we meet them, our relationship with them- whether long or short, and what we learn from the people on our life journey is all a part of God's plan and His great purpose for us. Also, along this path, we have cultural norms and the imposing actions of others that impact our journey.

In these chapters we see that Jacob ultimately receives the blessing from his father Abraham and is directed to go to Padan Aram to find a wife for himself. On the journey God speaks to Jacob in a dream, “He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the Lord, and He said: I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying” (Genesis 28: 12-13). So the blessing that Abraham gave to Jacob was confirmed by God. Jacob was indeed meant to receive the blessing over the first born son Esau even though the attitude of the times was that all the privilege goes to the first born. What we see as a disordered situation, as with Jacob and Esau's dilemma over blessings and birth right, happened for a very purposeful reason.

Bible Study

It led to Jacob, a plain man, carrying on the lineage that led to Jesus Christ. God chose Jacob for His own divine reason.

Later, we see that Jacob meets Rachel and he loved her and wanted her for his wife, but the cultural norms of the time dictated that Jacob marry the oldest daughter of the family and Rachel was the younger. Because of Jacob's love for Rachel he made an arrangement with her father Laban to work for him in order to marry Rachel, "I'll work for you for seven years if you'll give me Rachel, your younger daughter, as my wife" (Genesis 29: 18). Laban agreed, but after Jacob worked for him for the seven years, Laban used trickery to have Jacob lay with the older daughter Leah and marry her instead (Genesis 29: 19-25). Jacob however later married Rachel also, and after all the folly of circumstances, Jacob ended up right where he was destined to be- the father of 12 sons, the twelve tribes of Israel- from which arise a myriad of generations and teachings of those that came before us; valuable history, and a precious narrative of all we hold dear, given to us from God to learn and grow.

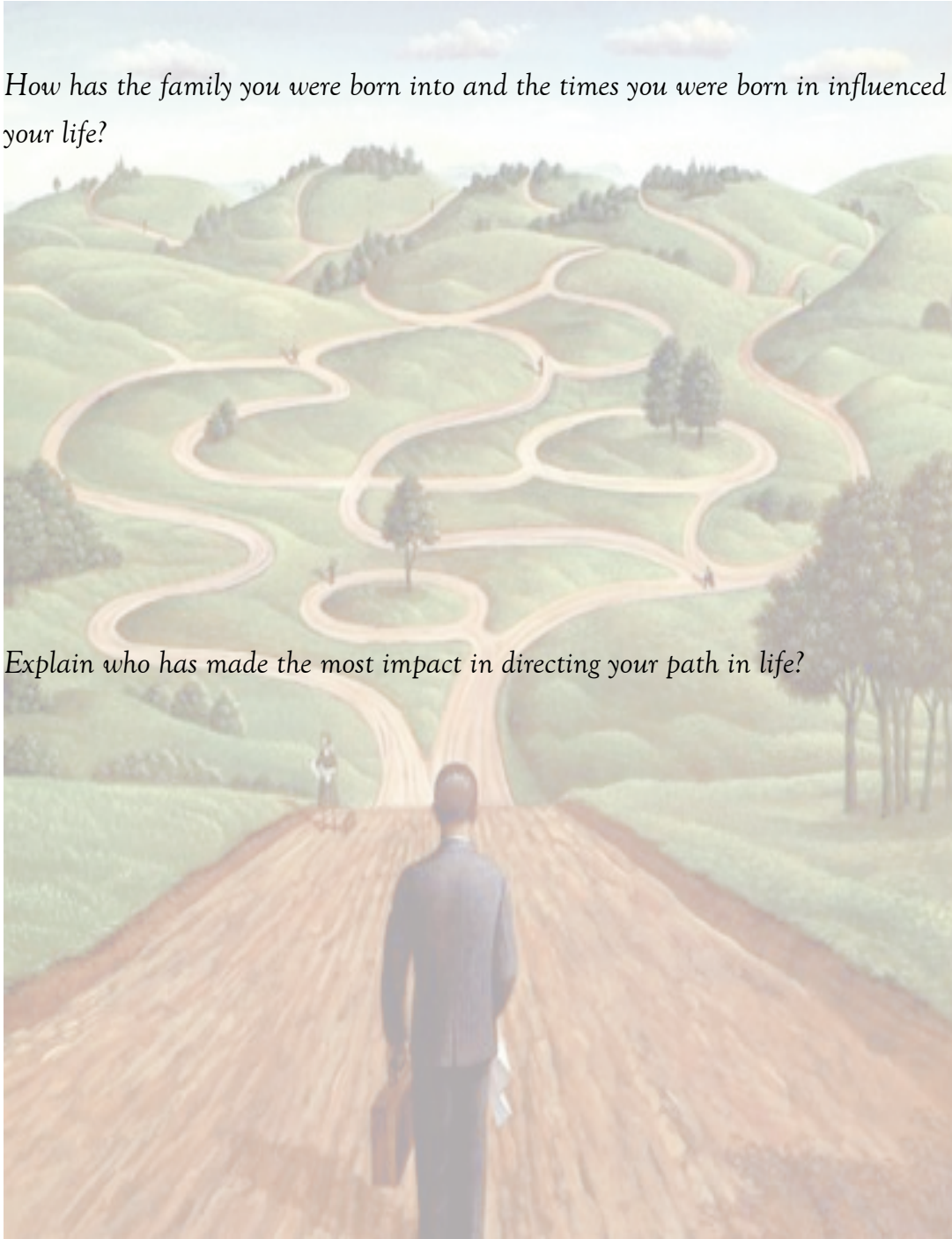
Take away: There are so many things that impact our life's journey, but everything happens for a reason/ On our path we will meet many people and have many unexpected encounters. God will use them all in bringing us to our destiny and use our path to help others grow.

Notes:

Devotional

Genesis 28-30

How has the family you were born into and the times you were born in influenced your life?



Explain who has made the most impact in directing your path in life?

Devotional

What has God revealed to you as your destiny, your directive for helping others?

What blessings has God placed on your life to accomplish your destiny?