

Walk Through the Bible

GENESIS 34-35

OVERVIEW

In Genesis chapter 34, after surviving the reunion with his brother, Esau, Jacob settles his family in the land of Canaan, in a city called Shechem. While living there, Jacob's daughter Dinah is raped by the son of an influential clan leader. To exact revenge, Jacob's sons, Simeon and Levi, deceived the men of the city into being circumcised and then killed and plundered all of them during their recovery.

Chapter 35 see Jacob and his family traveling back to Bethel, setting up an altar, and renewing their covenant with God. While in Bethel, Rebekah's nurse, Deborah dies and is buried. On the way out of Bethel, close to Bethlehem, Rachel dies giving birth to her son Benjamin. After Isaac dies, Jacob and Esau bury him in the family burial cave in Mamre.

DISCUSSION

- Who do you think "the women of the land" were (**Genesis 34:1**)? What makes you think that?
- Why do you think there was no outrage from Jacob over Dinah (**Genesis 34:5-7**)?
- What makes Simeon and Levi's deception seem much worse than Jacob's deception (**Genesis 34:13-17**)?
- Why did Jacob finally get upset (**Genesis 34:30-31**)?
- Jacob buried the pagan items under a terebinth tree near Shechem. What does the action picture (**Genesis 35:1-4**)?
- What was the message being relayed when Jacob changed the name of Bethel to El-Bethel (**Genesis 35:5-8**)?
- What needs to be considered when asking God to bless or use you in ministry (**Genesis 35:16-21**)?

