

## Genesis 34

### Coping with Violence & Disgrace

#### *Dangerous neighborhood ...*

##### I. A Tragic Encounter

- A. Patriarchal Missteps
- B. Innocent Endeavor
- C. Sleazy Character

##### II. Reasonable Outrage

- A. A Lame Proposal
- B. A Devious Solution
  - 1. Deceit
  - 2. Sacrilege
  - 3. Destruction
  - 4. Plunder
- C. A Rebuke & Rebuttal

##### III. Drawing Conclusions

- A. A Wicked World
- B. Family Principles
- C. Weighing Vengeance
- D. Protecting the Sacred
- E. Seeking Wisdom

*... the consequences of sin.*

#### ***Children, Listen ...***

1. How did Dinah's brothers feel when an evil man hurt her?
2. Would it have been a good idea for them to ask God what they should do?
3. When they took things into their own hands was their father Jacob happy?
4. Does God hide the sins of His people from the stories in the Bible?
5. We read in the Bible (circle the right one): A. overcome evil with evil B. Overcome evil with good

## Makings Sense out of the Sordid

There is not good to be found in this narrative except perhaps the fact that God does not give up on His people sinful as they may be. This is a tragic scenario involving the violation of an innocent young girl. The perpetrators are wicked but so are her defenders. This is the kind of Bible story that we don't like to read (not material for a child's Bible devotional), but we have to. Further, after reading it it is difficult to know what to do with it. While that is true, we can at least draw from this text principles that help us to see both what not to do – and a little less easily what to do in sordid situations smack of anything like this (I can't even formulate a "what would Jesus tell us to do" type of question for this). What really gets our attention here is how God's covenant people respond. While we may sympathize with sentiments of some of the characters involved we will see that their responses are very obviously corrupt – on the other hand we will struggle to see what might have been done according to Biblical principles. Perhaps it is accounts like this that drive us deeper into our search of God's Word for principles, practices and wisdom from above as we attempt to respond in godly fashion to even the most disturbing circumstances.