



## Tri-Village Sermon Discussion Questions

Topic: *Life with a Louse*

Text: Genesis 30:25-31:55

Service Date: June 1, 2025

Note: The questions are only a starting point for discussion. Don't hesitate to modify, adapt, or highlight only specific ones to fit your group and/or personal study.

### Getting Started

- As a child, did you have any fears such as the ones that Dan Stoffer mentioned in the sermon (dressers, clowns, lice, etc.)?
- A “louse” can be an unpleasant or mean person. Is there someone who comes to mind when you hear the word? Why do they come to mind?

### Sermon Discussion

- Have you ever known someone who is just a difficult person? What do you think made him/her this way?
- Do you think you've ever been perceived as a “louse” to someone else? Why?
- “Don't be a louse. Seek love, selflessness, and unity with family members. Do not allow bitterness to grow and poison relationships.” What happens when we allow bitterness to grow between family and/or friends?
- How can we overcome bitterness towards someone when our hearts seem to be unable move past it?
- From the sermon- “How to Spot a Louse”:
  - >They take advantage of others.
  - >They have no care of others.
  - >They aren't true to their word.
  - >They act with hostility.
  - >They don't recognize the greater power.

Have you found one of these statements to be especially true in dealing with difficult individuals?

- In the text, Jacob continues to prosper but Laban appears jealous. He then acts of his jealousy, even though Jacob had not done anything wrong. If you had been Jacob (and had endured things such as being tricked to work another seven years for the person you loved), how would you have reacted to Laban's desire to stay involved in Jacob's life?
- Genesis 31:5b says, "I see that your father's attitude toward me is not what it was before, but the God of my father has been with me." When someone's attitude seems to shift towards being unfavorable towards you, how should you react in a way that would honor Christ? Should we ever just ask the person if there's something wrong if we sense something has changed in the relationship instead of staying silent and having self-doubts (which may be satan trying to deceive us)?
- Louses "eventually die. But, this is a good thing!" This statement may be interpreted as an individual passing away, but it may also mean that the relationship improves. If you're struggling in a relationship currently, do you find yourself wishing more that: A) The person would just go away? or B) The situation/relationship would mend itself? What's been your prayer?
- Laban eventually had to let his pride die (Genesis 31:45-54). Is there any place for pride when it comes to truly wanting to restore a relationship? Do both individuals have to be willing to "make it work"? What happens when only one person wants to mend the relationship?
- Lessons for living with a louse:
  1. God will grow your character. Partner with Him.
  2. Don't mistreat your family. Treasure them.
  3. Realize that there are layers in many relationships. Seek unity.
  4. Realize that sometimes you have to remove yourself from a louse. Trust God and act.
  5. Forgive and find healing. Be reconciled!

In knowing that God can grow our character during challenging relationships, are there ways you currently see God developing your character to become more like Jesus in the process?

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### **Have you or someone in your group experienced a Story of Life Change?**

We'd love to hear about it! In fact, one of Tri-Village's values is "Stories of Life Change". Visit [tri-village.org/yourstory](http://tri-village.org/yourstory) and share how God worked.