



**18th April:**

**DINAH**



Dear Parent/Guardian

The first term of the 2020/2021 Sunday school year we looked into the book of Acts, throughout this we learnt about the first church, and the journey of Paul. Together we looked at how the disciples continued God's mission after Jesus' resurrection. We saw the amazing conversion of Saul to Paul. During the Daniel fast we looked at Galatians, which also referenced Abraham, and the book of Daniel.

During these times we were reminded of the incredible things God did for us all, and the vast history and build up to the event of Jesus on the cross, the event that redeemed us all.

For the rest of the year we will be going back to the start and will be discovering some of the many many incredible people that were involved in the lead up to the resurrection story. We will be going through the old testament and learn about one character each week.

Teaching videos, stories and worksheets, and zoom calls will continue throughout this meet and greet. During the school holiday we have chosen that although Sunday school sessions, whether physical or online, will not run. However, we will be releasing teaching videos and the weekly story and worksheet will be available. We felt that as there are so many stories to learn about this was the best course of action to help your children learn the most that they can.

you

-The Children's Team

# Dinah

Genesis 34 -35

**One day, Dinah, the daughter of Jacob and Leah, went out to visit the women of the land of the Hivite's.**

**Whilst she was there Shechem, Son of Hamor the Hivite, ruler of the land, saw Dinah. He wanted to make her his wife, so he took her and forced her to be with him. He spoke kindly to her because he loved her. But, even though he was kind to her, he had still forced her to be with him.**

**When Jacob heard that Shechem had taken Dinah and forced her to be with him, he met with Hamor, Shechem's father, to speak with him and sort things out. When the brother's heard what had happened to their sister they were very angry, because it was wrong for a man to force a woman to be with him. It was also wrong for a man to take a woman away from her family without their permission. Because they knew this, the brother joined the conversation between Jacob and Hamor.**

**Hamor told them that his son, Shechem was deeply in love with Dinah. He begged them to allow him to marry Dinah, even though they were not from the same place. They offered to share land if they were able to marry the people from different tribes.**

# Dinah

Genesis 34-35

**Because the brothers were still angry that Dinah had been disgraced and forced to be with Shechem, they would not allow this. So they told Shechem that because they were not circumcised, and under the covenant God made with Abraham, they could not allow the people of the different tribes to marry each other. They said that the men in Hamor's tribe should be circumcised. And then they would allow the people of the different tribes to marry.**

**Because Shechem loved Dinah he quickly got circumcised. He then spoke to the rest of the men in their city, telling them that Jacob's men wanted to become part of their tribe and share their land and be allowed to marry people from different tribes. But first they must be circumcised. So the men became circumcised, because they wanted Jacob's tribe to share their land and be able to marry their people.**

**Three days later the men of the Hamor's tribe were still in pain. Because of this weakness Simeon and Levi took their swords and killed all the men in the city including Hamor and his son, Shechem. Even though the men had agreed to join tribes and live together peacefully under the covenant of God.**

# Dinah

Genesis 34-35

**When the men had all been killed, Simeon and Levi then took Dinah out of Shechem's house and left. They then went among the dead bodies and stole everything that was in the city. The brothers took the animals and everything in the fields. They then took the wives and children of the men they had killed and all the belongings in their houses.**

**They decided that this was payback for what had happened to Dinah.**

**When Jacob heard that Simeon and Levi had killed the men of the Hivite tribe he told them that the other tribes that lived in the land would be angry. Jacob knew that because of what Simeon and Levi had done, the Canaanites and Perizzites who lived in the land would hate them. He feared that because Jacob and his tribe were so few, if they tried to attack Jacob's people would be destroyed.**

**Simeon and Levi said that they could not allow their sister to be treated the way she had been. They wanted revenge.**

**God told Jacob to go to Bethel and live there. Jacob told his tribe to put away their foreign Gods and make themselves clean. Jacob and his sons left for Bethel, but God caused the rest of his people to be afraid because of what Levi and Simeon had done, so they remained. Jacob and his sons were left alone.**

## TAKE-AWAY

Revenge is not the answer!

In the story we see that Dinah, Jacob's daughter was taken and then forced to be with a man from another tribe.

Because of the brother's actions and their choice in revenge, a whole tribe of wives lost their husbands, and children lost their fathers. They punished a lot of innocent people for one man's actions. When we choose revenge, we will not know the full consequence of our actions. And who our revenge may affect.

Because of the brother's actions, Jacob and his sons were forced to move and abandoned by the rest of their own tribe. There was an opportunity for inter-tribe marriages, and Jacob's family to bring many tribes to become part of God's covenant and grow God's Kingdom. But, because the brother's chose revenge, rather than forgiveness, this work was lost.

God forgives us and our actions, and He wants us to do the same to others. The brother's revenge caused a lot of harm and hurt. As well as a lot of people not coming into God's Kingdom.

Prayer:

Has someone done, or said something about your family or a friend, or even yourself that has hurt you. Or made you angry?

Do you want to make this person feel the way you feel?

Speak to God about what has happened and how you feel. Tell him what you want to do about it. Then ask God to help you forgive them and let go of your negative feelings.

### ACTIVITY:

Take a piece of paper and write down a list of people that have hurt you, or done something that against your family or friends.

Write all the things that you like about them. All the things that are positive about them. You may need to ask God to help you with this.