



Discussion Guide for “How to Lose”

The Way, Way Back Week 7

Have you ever won a battle but lost a war? Maybe you got the upper hand in an argument but lost the relationship. Or landed the deal at the expense of a colleague. Or got your way but caused an alienation that’s ongoing to this day. We’re often too short-sighted, and allow the wrong priorities to cloud our judgment. Jacob’s 20-year feud with his uncle Laban shows us the fruit of that kind of conflict. How can we seek God’s grace and affirm the dignity of everyone we meet?

Scriptures for Further Reading

[Genesis 29-31](#)

[Genesis 32:3-12](#)

[Galatians 5:22-23](#)

Passage for Sacred Reading:

Sacred Reading is a way of reading Scripture with an eye toward transformation, not just information. You can find a [step-by-step guide here](#). The passage for this week’s sacred reading is [32:3-12](#).

Questions for Discussion

1. What’s a time you felt as though you won a battle but lost the larger war?
2. Review the stories of Laban and Jacob in Genesis 29-31. How do you think each saw the other?
3. Where did Jacob learn his life of deception and trickery? Where did it get him?
4. What are some places in your week you need to step back and look at the bigger picture?
5. How can you choose to focus on embodying the fruit of the Spirit in your relationships this week?