



Jacob was Rebekah's favorite son (see Genesis 25:28). Even though God told her that her younger son would serve the older, Rebekah wanted to make sure this promise came true. She helped Jacob receive the blessing Isaac intended to give to Esau through deception (see Genesis 27). Jacob was then forced to leave home to escape his brother Esau's murderous wrath.

We will find out that Jacob ends up with four mothers of his children. This week we look at his first wife, Leah.

1. Read Genesis 28:1-9 and set the scene for our study of Leah.
2. Read about Jacob's encounter with God in Genesis 28:10-22. What promises did Jacob receive? (Note: Verses 20-21 look like conditional statements on Jacob's part. Rather, they are statements of faith, as he sets up a memorial to his encounter with God. Read the word "If" {NASB} in verse 20 as "Since".)
3. Read Genesis 29:1-12. What drew Jacob's attention to the Rachel? Notice that Jacob chose to show off some "brute strength" by moving the stone from the well in verse 10. Why?
4. How did Jacob react when he met Rachel? How did Rachel respond to who Jacob was?
5. Read Genesis 29:13-20. Describe both of "Uncle" Laban's daughters.





6. What did Jacob offer in order to have Rachel as his wife? How did Jacob feel about the offer?

7. Read Genesis 29:21- 30. Describe Laban's deception of all parties on the wedding day? How many were deceived? What irony do you see in Laban's trickery?

8. Name all the women in Jacob's household from Genesis 29:21-30.

At this point we will stay with our study of Leah, Rachel is the topic of the next study.

9. What did the Lord see about Leah in verse 29:31?

10. Read Genesis 29:32-35. Leah gives birth to four sons, Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah. The names she gave her sons matched the state of her emotions at their birth. What do you notice about the progression of her statements as each son is born?

11. Read Genesis 30:9-13. How did the birth of two more sons come about and what did Leah name them? What is the state of her mind and heart at this time? Can you relate to her?





12. Read Genesis 30:14-16. Comment on Leah's relationship with both Rachel and Jacob.

13. Read Genesis 30:17-21. Name the sons and comment on the statements Leah made at their births.

The remainder of Genesis 30 and 31 is the account of Jacob's prosperity and departure for Canaan. Genesis 32 and 33 record Jacob's fear of Esau, another meeting with God and the reunion between Jacob and Esau.

14. Read Genesis 32:24-32. What is your favorite part about this scene between God and Jacob? (note: This is when God changes Jacob's name to Israel.

15. Leah's fourth son is Judah. What do we learn about Judah's lineage from Mathew 1:1-2 and Revelation 5:1-5?

16. Read Genesis 49:28-33. What place of honor did Leah receive at Jacob's death?

17. Read Ruth 4:11. What legacy did Leah leave?

18. Please comment on God's work behind the scenes in the life of Leah. What encourages you?

Maybe Leah felt unloved by both her father and her husband, but I believe she discovered the amazing life giving truth of Jeremiah 31:1,3.

I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. I have loved you with an everlasting love and I have drawn you with kindness.
from Jeremiah 31:1,3

