



Lesson 3

Luke 6:31

"Do to others as you want them to do to you."

Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel

Genesis 29:14b–30

^{14b}Jacob stayed with Laban for a whole month. ¹⁵Then Laban said to him, "You are one of my relatives. But is that any reason for you to work for me for nothing? Tell me what your pay should be."

¹⁶Laban had two daughters. The name of the older one was Leah. And the name of the younger one was Rachel. ¹⁷Leah was plain, but Rachel was beautiful. She had a nice figure. ¹⁸Jacob was in love with Rachel. He said to Laban, "I'll work for you for seven years so I can marry your younger daughter Rachel."

¹⁹Laban said, "It's better for me to give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me." ²⁰So Jacob worked for seven years so he could marry Rachel. But they seemed like only a few days to him because he loved her so much.

²¹Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife. I've completed my time. I want to sleep with her."

²²So Laban brought all the people of the place together and had a feast prepared. ²³But when evening came, he gave his daughter Leah to Jacob. And Jacob slept with her. ²⁴Laban gave his female servant Zilpah to his daughter as her servant.

²⁵When Jacob woke up the next morning, there was Leah next to him! So he said to Laban, "What have you done to me? I worked for you so I could marry Rachel, didn't I? Why did you trick me?"

²⁶Laban replied, "It isn't our practice here to give the younger daughter to be married before the older one. ²⁷Complete this daughter's wedding week. Then we'll give you the younger one also. But you will have to work for another seven years."

²⁸So Jacob completed the week with Leah. Then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. ²⁹Laban gave his female servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her servant. ³⁰Jacob slept with Rachel also. He loved Rachel more than he loved Leah. And he worked for Laban for another seven years.

Questions

- 1 How long did Jacob work for nothing for Laban? Jacob worked for free for Laban for a whole _____. (Gen. 29:14)
- 2 Was Laban feeling guilty about Jacob working for him for free? (Yes/No) _____. (Gen. 29:15)
- 3 How many daughters did Laban have? What were their names? Laban had _____ daughters, and their names were _____ and _____. (Gen. 29:16)

- 4 What did Leah look like? Leah was _____. (Gen. 29:17)
- 5 What did Rachel look like? Rachel was _____ with a _____ figure. (Gen. 29:17)
- 6 Which sister was older? _____ was older. (Gen. 29:16)
- 7 When Laban asked Jacob what Laban should pay him, what was Jacob's answer? Jacob told Laban that he would _____ for _____ years if he could _____ Rachel. (Gen. 29:18)



Wow! That's true love!

- 8 Did Laban *really* promise he would let Jacob marry Rachel? (Yes/No) _____.



Laban *only* said, "It is better for me to give her to you than to some other man" (Gen. 29:19). So Laban only *implied* he would give Rachel to Jacob.

- 9 What did the seven years seem like to Jacob as he worked for Laban? Why? The seven years seemed like only a _____ days to Jacob, because he _____ Rachel so much. (Gen. 29:20)



That is so sweet!

- 10 When the seven years were up and there was a feast, which woman did Laban give to Jacob when *evening* came? Laban gave _____ to Jacob to be his wife. (Gen. 29:23)



Laban made sure it was dark first.

- 11 Did Jacob sleep with Leah thinking she was Rachel? (Yes/No) _____. (Gen. 29:23)



I know it was dark, but I wonder if Jacob had too much to drink.



Apparently, tricking people ran in the family. In the past, Jacob tricked his brother, Esau, as well as his aging father, Isaac. Jacob was a lot like his uncle Laban!

- 12 Was Jacob upset when he found out that Laban had tricked him? (Yes/No) _____. (Gen. 29:25)



I guess now Jacob knew how Isaac and Esau felt.

- 13 How long did Jacob have to wait to finally marry Rachel? Jacob had to wait a _____ before he could marry Rachel. (Gen. 29:27)
- 14 What else did Jacob have to do for Laban if Jacob married Rachel? Jacob had to _____ for another _____ years. (Gen. 29:27)
- 15 Did Jacob love both his wives equally? (Yes/No) _____. Jacob loved Rachel _____ than he loved Leah. (Gen. 29:30)



Poor Leah!

Acts 10:34b

"I now realize how true it is that God treats everyone the same."



Thank you, God, that You love and treat everyone the same!

Jacob Becomes the Father of Many Children

Genesis 29:31–35

³¹The Lord saw that Jacob didn't love Leah as much as he loved Rachel. So He let Leah have children. But Rachel wasn't able to have children. ³²Leah became pregnant. She had a son. She named him Reuben. She said, "The Lord has seen me suffer. Surely my husband will love me now."

³³She became pregnant again. She had a son. Then she said, "The Lord heard that Jacob doesn't love me very much. That's why the Lord gave me this one too." So she named him Simeon.

³⁴She became pregnant again. She had a son. Then she said, "Now at last my husband will value me. I have had three sons by him." So the boy was named Levi.

³⁵She became pregnant again. She had a son. Then she said, "This time I'll praise the Lord." So she named him Judah. Then she stopped having children.

Questions

- 16 Did it bother the Lord that Jacob didn't love Leah as much as he loved Rachel? (Yes/No) _____. (Gen. 29:31)



Jacob may have been tricked into marrying Leah, but it was wrong for him to favour one wife over the other.

- 17 What did the Lord do about this? The Lord let Leah **h**_____ children. (Gen. 29:31)

- 18 Was Rachel able to have children right away? (Yes/No) _____. (Gen. 29:31)
- 19 How many sons did the Lord bless Leah with before she stopped having children? Leah had _____ sons before she stopped having children. (Gen. 29:32–35)
- 20 What were the names of these four sons? Their names were _____, _____, _____, and _____. (Gen. 29:32–35)

How did the Holy Spirit speak to you this week as you studied these Bible verses? In other words, what did you learn this week from reading God's Word?

Special note: The first part of the next chapter in Genesis, Chapter 30, is about how Jacob's next eight children were born. It is a sad account of the jealousy and fights between the two sisters Leah and Rachel.

When Rachel saw that she wasn't having children, she became upset and gave her servant Bilhah to Jacob as a wife so Bilhah could have children for Rachel. Bilhah had two sons by Jacob, and Rachel named them Dan and Naphtali. During this time, Leah stopped having children, so she gave her servant Zilpah to Jacob as a wife. Zilpah also had two sons by Jacob, and Leah named them Gad and Asher. However, later Leah was able to have two more sons and a daughter by Jacob. Leah named these two sons Issachar and Zebulun and named her daughter Dinah. God then showed concern for Rachel and made it possible for her to have children: Rachel had a son by Jacob and named him Joseph.

Leah and Rachel's hostile relationship produced a toxic environment for their children. God says in Genesis 2:24, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife. The two of them become one flesh." Man was created by God to have only one wife.