

WOMEN OF THE OLD TESTAMENT LEAH AND RACHEL

Pray and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

Read the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

Begin to answer the questions using your own words.

Questions are based on the New International Version (NIV) 2011 edition.

Lesson 5 • October 17, 2012

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Rebekah** has been helpful to you?

SECTION I: Read Genesis 29

2. a) Jacob is running from Esau's murder threat. Summarize Isaac's blessing to him in **28:1-5** and God's promise to him in **28:12-15**.

- b) With these events in mind, what do you think accounts for all of the emotion Jacob displays in **29:11**?

3. From **V4-17**, what facts do you learn about Leah and Rachel?

Leah

Rachel

4. a) Describe what happens in **V18-25**.

- b) Where had Jacob experienced this kind of identity deception before?

5. Then what happens in **V26-30**, and how is this a set-up for disaster?

6. List Leah's sons in **V31-35**:

Name

Why Leah Gave That Name

7. What are the “glass half empty” and the “glass half full” perspectives:

a) in Leah’s story? _____

b) in Rachel’s story? _____

8. Which of these two women can you relate to most and why?

SECTION II: Read Genesis 30:1-26

9. a) Why does Rachel give her maid servant Bilhah to Jacob in **V1-3**?

b) What character traits unfold in Rachel from **V1-8**?

10. Now Leah plays the same game in **V9-13**. What conclusions can you draw about Leah’s level of contentment at this time?

11. Read **V14-21**. What happens next, and how does this give further insight into Leah’s character?

12. What long-awaited blessing comes to Rachel, and how do Rachel and Jacob respond? (**V22-26**)

SECTION III: Skim Genesis 31-35

13. Skim **30:25-43**. From **31:1-18**, what does God say to Jacob in **V3**, and what caught your attention regarding Rachel’s and Leah’s responses?

14. From **31:19-21**, what did Rachel do? What did Jacob do?

15. As you read the ongoing story of their departure in **31:22-35**, what character trait seems to run thick in this family?

16. Jacob and Laban come to peaceful terms in **31:36-55**. From **Chapter 32**, what did you appreciate about:

God’s initiative _____

Jacob’s actions _____

17. As Jacob prepares to meet Esau, how does he divide his family, and what message do you think that conveyed to Rachel and Leah? (**Chapter 33**)

18. After the sad chapter between Dinah, the Shechemites and Jacob's sons in **Chapter 34**, what lingering sin of Rachel's had to be dealt with in **35:1-5**?

19. What do you find interesting about the death and/or burials of:

Rachel (**35:16-20**) _____

Leah (**49:29-33**, especially **V31c**) _____

20. Leah and Rachel had their share of aches and blessings.

a) In your opinion, which did they fixate upon?

b) What ache in your life threatens to overtake the joy you could receive from all of your blessings?

21. Form a prayer from what you learned through Leah's or Rachel's life.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. a) What advice do you imagine the following parents would give about parenting that might tame the pull to "live through our children"?

Judges 13:1-14, especially **V5b** – Manoah and his wife

1 Samuel 1:21-28, especially **V28** – Hannah

Proverbs 17:6 – Solomon's counsel

Proverbs 22:6 – another counsel from Solomon

Matthew 20:20-23 – mother of Zebedee's sons

b) What advice did you need to be reminded of most and why?

2. Suggested Memory Verse: **1 Timothy 6:6**

