

Questions Week 12

Genesis 27; Genesis 28:1-5; 29; 30:1-24

The Patriarch Era

As you read Genesis 27, you will see the background of Jacob's parents, Jacob and his mother's deception, and his father's blessing bestowed upon him.

This week's lesson actually focuses on Genesis 28:1-5; 29-30:1-24, the two women in Jacob's life and the 14 year struggle between the two women. You will see how women sometimes use their relationships with their husband and children, or just men in general, to meet their longings for significance and impact. How a woman looks affects her outlook on life. It is important to understand as you study this lesson that only a relationship with God can meet the deepest relational longings for which women long.

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 16:7b – "For the Lord does not see as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Prayer Focus: This week ask the Lord to enable you to look to Him to meet your deepest relational longings.

Read Genesis 28:1-5; 29; 30:1-24

1. Describe Leah.

2. In what other story do we see God looking out for the woman considered to be the underdog? (Week 9)

3. What does God do for Leah?

4. What does this tell you about the Lord? (Psalm 127:3)

Some questions may have come from the Women's Chronological Bible Study by Iva May. Permission was granted. The Women's Chronological Bible Study may be purchased through Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, TN

5. Why does Leah name her first son Reuben?

6. What does she think having Jacob's baby will do for her?

7. Describe Leah's view of God.

8. How do Leah's pregnancies affect Rachel?

9. What does this tell you about women?

10. Name ways in which women compare themselves to other women.

11. What is the root cause of comparing yourself to other women?

12. How does Rachel deal with her barrenness?

13. In what other story did we see a woman try to build her family but with disastrous consequences? (Genesis 16:2)

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14. What does this tell you about Rachel?

15. Describe Rachel's view of God?

16. What is the significance of Bilhah's sons' names?

17. How does Leah respond to the birth of Bilhah's sons?

18. At what point does Leah think that she is finally happy?

19. Name some things and relationships that women use to find happiness today?

20. Where is Jacob in all of this?

21. What meaning does Rachel attach to Joseph's birth?

22. What does this story teach about un-pretty women and pretty women?

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23. What does this story teach us about God?

Reflection: Leah and Rachel's story is just one among many stories in the Bible centered on female drama. God's grace appears most luminous against the starkness of the lives of flawed women. Women have issues, but God takes women as He finds and weaves them throughout His story. Women seem to struggle with competing with one another, with validating themselves by what they have (collected), and by seeking dominance over others (control). All three characteristics appear in the female stories in some degree, which means women today struggle with the temptation to compete, collect and control to some degree. Perhaps, as you have studied this week's lesson, you might just catch a glimpse of yourself.