

GOD is greater than > my struggles

Genesis 29:31 - 30:24

God keeps it real by telling us about the real housewives of Israel. Today's passage is all about the battle and struggles of the two wives of Jacob. The children of these women in today's passage became 11 of the 12 tribes of Israel from Jacob, later named Israel. Follow along and learn from this intriguing passage. Each name tells a part of their struggle and is given to us to learn about our own struggles.

Leah = weary

1st son: **Reuben** = look a son . Genesis 29:32

2nd son: **Simeon** = heard . Genesis 29:33

3rd son: **Levi** = attached . Genesis 29:34

4th son: **Judah** = let Him be praised . Genesis.29:35

Rachel = ewe Genesis 30:1-8

Rachel uses Bilhah to bear children: **Bilhah** = troubled .

5th son: **Dan** = God has vindicated . Genesis 30:5, 6

6th son: **Naphtali** = I am wrestling . Genesis 30:7, 8

Leah uses Zipah to bear children: **Zipah** = trickling .

7th son: **Gad** = fortunate .

8th son: **Asher** = happy, "I am lucky, all is right" .

Rachel and Leah trade mandrakes for Jacob and more children. Genesis 30:14-16
(Mandrakes supposedly caused fertility at that time.)

Leah gives birth again:

9th son: **Issachar** = there is recompense . Genesis 30:17, 18

10th son: **Zebulun** = dowry , honor , gift . Genesis 30:19, 20

Daughter **Dinah** = judgment . Genesis 30:21

Rachel finally has her own child:

11th son: **Joseph** = Jehovah has added . Genesis 30:22-24

JACOB'S FAMILY



Lessons from these women:

1. Many struggles come out of my own self effort to achieve my desires:
 - Conditional love Genesis 29:32, “Now my husband will love me”
 - Jealousy, strife in competition and comparison with others. Genesis 30:1
 - Resentment and unforgiving spirit. Genesis 30:6-8
 - Bargaining and manipulating people for my goals. Genesis 29:34,
 - Blaming and attacking others. Genesis 30:1
 - Unwillingness to listen or understand another person’s needs. Genesis 30:2
2. I must acknowledge and turn from my selfish efforts. **Are any of the above part of your life?**
3. Grow in my knowledge and faith in God’s sovereign rule in all of my life:
 - God knows my struggles. Genesis 29:31, 32
Now the Lord saw that Leah was unloved... the Lord has seen my affliction.
 - God offers grace for my weaknesses. Genesis 30:17, 22
God gave heed to Leah... Then God remembered Rachel.
 - God will heal and provide in His time and way. Genesis 30:23,24
So she conceived and bore a son and said, “God has taken away my reproach.” She named him Joseph, saying, “May the LORD give me another son.”

What are the struggles of your life that need to be placed into God’s care?

Even with these struggles of the heart and relationship, note the heavy emphasis they kept on God’s work and what we must pursue as well in the underlined verses.

Genesis 29:21

³¹ Now the Lord saw that Leah was unloved, and He opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.

³² Leah conceived and bore a son and named him Reuben, for she said, “Because the Lord has seen my affliction”³³ Then she conceived again and bore a son and said, “Because the Lord has heard that I am unloved”³⁵ And she conceived again and bore a son and said, “This time I will praise the Lord.”

Genesis 30

¹⁷ God gave heed to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son. ¹⁸ Then Leah said, “God has given me my wages because I gave my maid to my husband.” So she named him Issachar. ²⁰ Then Leah said, “God has endowed me with a good gift” ²² Then God remembered Rachel, and God gave heed to her and opened her womb ²³ So she conceived and bore a son and said, “God has taken away my reproach.”
²⁴ She named him Joseph, saying, “May the LORD give me another son.”