

# 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

1<sup>st</sup> son: **Reuben** = look a son \_\_\_\_\_ . Genesis 29:32

2<sup>nd</sup> son: **Simeon** = heard \_\_\_\_\_ . Genesis 29:33

3<sup>rd</sup> son: **Levi** = attached \_\_\_\_\_ . Genesis 29:34

4<sup>th</sup> son: **Judah** = let Him be praised \_\_\_\_\_ . Genesis.29:35

### Rachel = ewe Genesis 30:1-8

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

5<sup>th</sup> son: **Dan** = God has vindicated \_\_\_\_\_ . Genesis 30:5, 6

6<sup>th</sup> son: **Naphtali** = I am wrestling \_\_\_\_\_ . Genesis 30:7, 8

Leah uses Zilpah to bear children: **Zilpah** = trickling \_\_\_\_\_ .

7<sup>th</sup> son: **Gad** = fortunate \_\_\_\_\_ .

8<sup>th</sup> 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:

9<sup>th</sup> son: **Issachar** = there is recompense \_\_\_\_\_ . Genesis 30:17, 18

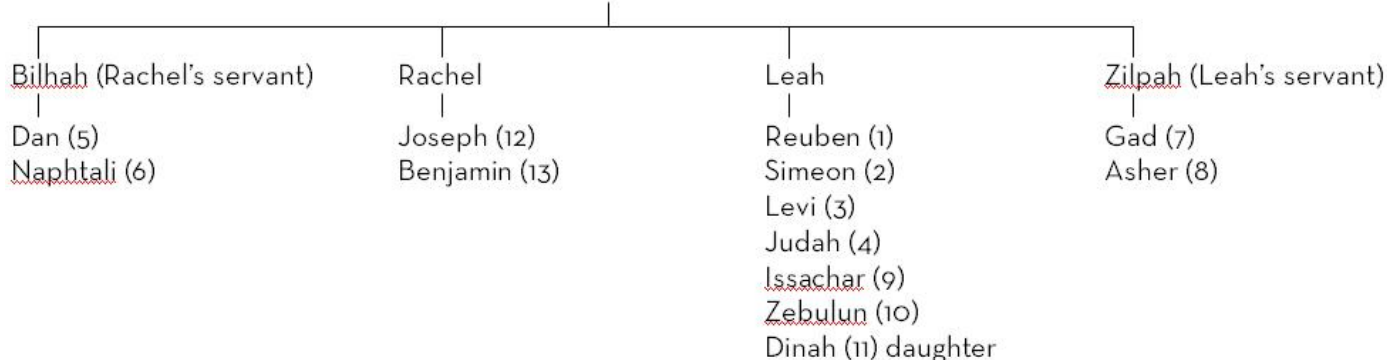
10<sup>th</sup> son: **Zebulun** = dowry \_\_\_\_\_ , honor \_\_\_\_\_ , gift \_\_\_\_\_ . Genesis 30:19, 20

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

### Rachel finally has her own child:

11<sup>th</sup> 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

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

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

Genesis 30

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

## Response at the Stations

**COMMUNION** - This Sunday communion is available around the room at several stations. Take the elements of the bread and the cup in remembrance of what Christ has done for you.

**GIVING** - We encourage you and your family to bring your offering, as your prayerful gift of worship to God, to the containers located at the stations. Offering envelopes are available in the chair racks for your use.

**PRAYER** - After the message, there will be prayer counselors in the Prayer Booth, located on the far right side of the auditorium, to pray with you this morning.



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