

Christmas and the Life of Rachel
Genesis 29, 30, and 35
Dec. 26, 2021

Genesis 29:15-20 Jacob's Love for Rachel

Verses 21-30 Laban Tricks Jacob

Genesis 30:1-3 Rachel "Bears" Children

- 1) How would we fill in the blank? -
"Give me _____, or else I die!"
- 2) What is my _____ in?

Verses 22-24 Rachel Bears a Son

Genesis 35:16-20 Rachel Dies

Genesis 30:1b Genesis 30:22-24 Ecclesiastes 2:10-11
Psalms 84:2 Romans 8:19-23 NLT John 7:37
John 10:10 Revelation 21:3 Psalm 42:1-2

- 3) Rachel was _____
- 4) Rachel was _____
- 5) Rachel became _____
- 6) And a mother of two - but she wasn't _____
- 7) Our greatest need and deepest desire is to _____
- 8) God created us to feel _____, desiring more, so that we might find our satisfaction in Him.
- 9) Our ideal _____: A sinner saved by grace.
- 10) Jesus gives us our deepest craving: _____

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Genesis 30:1-3 Rachel "Bears" Children

- 1) How would we fill in the blank? -
"Give me _____, or else I die!" <you fill in the blank>
- 2) What is my IDENTITY in?

Verses 22-24 Rachel Bears a Son

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- 3) Rachel was BEAUTIFUL
- 4) Rachel was LOVED
- 5) Rachel became RICH
- 6) And a mother of two - but she wasn't SATISFIED
- 7) Our greatest need and deepest desire is to KNOW GOD
- 8) God created us to feel EMPTY, desiring more, so that we might find our satisfaction in Him.
- 9) Our ideal IDENTITY: A sinner saved by grace.
- 10) Jesus gives us our deepest craving: HIMSELF

Food for Thought for the week of December 26, 2021
(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

****Since Life Groups are on break, feel free to use the following study questions with your personal devotions! Life Group signups start today! Life Groups will resume the week of January 9.****

1) This week we learned about the life of Rachel. Although she had many blessings, she was (for many years) barren. She cried out to her husband, "Give me children, or else I die." If there was one or two things you want most in life, what would they be?

2) Rachel's sister, Leah, suffered because she was given in marriage to a man who thought she was her sister! Thus, although married, she never quite felt "wanted" or cherished. Read the following passage about the birth of Leah's first four sons:

Genesis 29:31-35 - *"[31] When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, He opened her womb; but Rachel was barren. [32] So Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben; for she said, "The LORD has surely looked on my affliction. Now therefore, my husband will love me." [33] Then she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Because the LORD has heard that I am unloved, He has therefore given me this son also." And she called his name Simeon. [34] She conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Now this time my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore his name was called Levi. [35] And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Now I will praise the LORD." Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she stopped bearing."*

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What does that passage reveal about Leah's hope?

Leah named her fourth son Judah, which means "praise". What seems different about Leah's response to this son?

3)How do the following passages challenge or encourage you to grow in your desire for God?

Psalms 63:1-8 - "[1] A Psalm of David when he was in the wilderness of Judah. O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water. [2] So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. [3] Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You. [4] Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. [5] My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. [6] When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. [7] Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. [8] My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me."

Psalms 84:1-2, 10 - "[1] To the Chief Musician. On an instrument of Gath. A Psalm of the sons of Korah. How lovely is Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts! [2] My soul longs, yes, even faints For the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. ... [10] For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness."

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