

Genesis Bible Study Assignment
May 13, 2021

Reading: Genesis Chapters 29-30

Discussion Questions

Genesis 29:1-30

1. Name one similarity and one difference between the stories of Genesis 24:1-27 and Genesis 29:1-14.

2. Given Laban's experience with a foreigner arriving to request a bride from his family – i.e. when the servant of Abraham came to get a bride for Isaac – why do you think Laban ran to meet Jacob when he received news about his arrival?

3. Why do you think Laban required Jacob to serve him for 7 years before he would allow him to marry Rachel?

4. Genesis 29:17 is translated in the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible as, "Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful." Why do you think the author of this text made this distinction between the two women?

5. The word translated as "lovely" in the verse mentioned above can also mean "weak". How might this change your understanding of Leah?

6. How do you think Laban was able to trick Jacob into thinking Leah was Rachel on his (first) wedding night? How does this compare with what made it possible for Jacob to fool Isaac into thinking he was Esau?

Genesis 29:31 to Genesis 30:24

7. What does Leah believe bearing her first three sons will do for her?

8. Two of Leah's sons, Levi and Judah, would give rise to Moses and King David (who was the ancestor of Jesus). Does this justify Laban's trickery and exploitation of Jacob? Why or why not?

9. Name two things God was able to accomplish because of Leah's marriage to Jacob – specifically through their sons Levi and Judah? What might this mean with respect to the relationship between injustice (Laban's trickery, for example) and God's will (i.e. what God was able to accomplish through the lineages of Leah and Jacob's two sons, Levi and Judah)?

10. What is one reason Leah may have stopped bearing children after giving birth to her first four sons? How does this compare with why scripture says that Rachel was unable to bear children for a time?

Genesis 30:25-43

11. How many years was Jacob supposed to serve Laban after he married Leah and Rachel? Did he serve that amount of time before he asked Laban to release him and his family? How do you know?

12. How did Laban attempt to limit Jacob's "wages"? What did Jacob do to get around that limitation?

13. Do you believe that craftiness and trickery are justifiable methods of righting wrongs? Why or why not?