

3-14-2022 Week 2-Significant Women's Bible Study

Day 1: Daddy's Bait-N-Switch

"I will show love to those I called, 'Not loved," Hosea 2:23

1. Social media can keep us connected; however, there is a danger that we will become self-centered with pride or low self-esteem.
2. **Have you ever felt that others' homes are much cleaner, perfectly neat, and trendy?**
3. Satan has fun with us, tempting us to compare ourselves, our looks, hairstyle, home décor. You name it.
4. Let's take a look at two sisters in the Bible Leah and Rachel. Leah had weak eyes and Rachel was beautiful.
5. **Have you ever said, it isn't fair when something occurs that directly impacts you?** You look at others and all their blessings and fail to see your own.
6. Background: Isaac and Rebekah, two generations down from Abraham and Sarah had twin sons Jacob and Esau. Jacob stole the birthright from his brother Esau. His name meant, "deceiver." God used this trickster in an amazing way. Jacob had a dream closely related to Abraham's promises from God. The whole world would be blessed through him.
7. **What is Jacob's story?** Jacob came to stay with his uncle Laban in Harran. He agreed to work for him for 7 years in exchange for marriage to his daughter Rachel, the younger daughter. The older daughter Leah had weak eyes. (The eye was the chief feature of Oriental beauty.)
8. After 7 years, the wedding was held and Laban tricked him by giving Jacob the older daughter. The next morning, Jacob was very angry with his uncle when he saw that Leah was his wife. Laban asked that he fulfill the wedding week ritual of 7 days and then he would be given Rachel for another 7 years of labor. **Is life sometimes unfair?**
9. Before living with his uncle, Jacob was that of a tent dweller. He loved to be with his mother, cooking stew. His mother, Rebekah taught him deceit. On his way to his's uncle's, he had an encounter with God.
10. Reader Genesis 28:20-22. Jacob made a vow. If God will be with me and will keep me in his way that I go and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord

shall be my God, and this stone which I have set up for a pillar shall be God's house. Of all that you give me, I will give a full tenth to you.

11. **What happened after Jacob married Rachel?** Leah felt rejected. Her father and her husband didn't want her. Have you ever felt rejection? Ex. Rachel, the author, shared her elementary school recess game of Red Rover, being the last to be picked and the humiliation of not being able to break through the opposing team's line. It hurts! It is bad enough to be rejected by friends, but when family rejects you, that really does sting.
12. Reader: Hosea 2:23 *I will show love to those I called, "Not loved."*
13. Reader: Isaiah 43:4. *You are precious and honored in my sight,...I love you.*
If you are in the midst of rejection, copy these verses and post them in a prominent place.
14. Bask in the security of God's love helps us all. When we are criticized, feel self-pity, know that God has got me!
15. Conclusion: Rejection stings, but I can hold on to the fact that in God's eyes I am loved.
16. Takeaway Truth—"I have loved you with an everlasting love, Jeremiah 31:3.

Day 2. Sister Wives' Drama

He was despised and rejected by making, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Isaiah 53:3

1. **Are our perceptions the way others see us?** Rachel gave us an example of a husband, who saw himself as svelte, the athlete he once was. When a woman clapped for him, he realized that he may have looked more like a couch potato.
2. Reader: Isiah 53:3 **How did Jesus show that he was rejected?** *He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering and familiar with pain.*
3. Rachel, our author, shared how their family has been rejected when out in public with a family of 7 children.
4. **How was Leah rejected?** The honeymoon is supposed to be a sweet time of love. Not the case.
5. Reader: Genesis 29:25-30. Jacob was very upset with Laban. What have you done to me, you have deceived me! Laban explained that in their culture the older daughter is to be married first. Finish your week with Leah, and Rachel will be his wife in return for 7 years of work.

6. Problems with polygamy just as Abraham and Sarah experienced. In this case, there was favoritism-Rachel was loved more by Jacob, than Leah.
7. When people treat us badly, God sees us and cares. God saw Hagar's rejection and had an angel tell her that her descendants would be too many to count. The angel told her she was pregnant and to name the child Ishmael (God hears) for the Lord has heard your misery.
8. Hagar gave the name to the Lord who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me." "I have now seen the One who sees me."
9. **Have you been through a really tough time in your life where you thought, I cannot do this?** Rachel shared a personal story about a time when her husband was flat on the floor with severe back pain, and she was only a few weeks postpartum. She needed to care for her husband, a new baby, and four small children. She was discouraged! God answered her by sending someone to mow the lawn, meals brought in and flowerbeds weeded.

10. Do you have evidence of God's closeness when he helped you through a tough time?

11. Rachel suggested an example by posting online on social media. If you are not comfortable with this, simply jot down your thoughts in the back of the book in the sections, "Significant Encounters."

12. Reader: Psalm 34:18 *The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.* We also receive a blessing.

13. How does our modern-day culture look at women having children versus Biblical women having children? Today, most want fewer children. In Biblical times, children were considered a blessing, a reward. Women who had children were meant for a better future. It meant stability because children and grandchildren cared for the elderly.

14. Conclusion: We are seen by a God who knows pain and suffering firsthand, and cares for us.

15. Takeaway Truth: "*The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry.* Psalm 34:15.

Day 3: Three Strikes, She's Out

"You are precious in my eyes and honored, and I love you." Isaiah 43:4

1. Typically, competitiveness and comparisons stop with siblings when they marry, but in Leah's case, she was still living with her sister Rachel. She was married to the same man!

2. Reader Genesis 29:32 "Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Rueben." Means "see a son."
3. **What was Leah thinking after giving birth to Rueben?** She thought her husband Jacob, would surely love her.
4. Leah was very fertile, then she gave birth to a second son. She named him Simeon. Means "one who hears." Again, she thought giving her husband a second son would have God make Jacob love her. Did not happen, Jacob still loved Rachel more.
5. Then Leah conceived and gave birth to a third son, whom she named Levi. In their language, sounded like attached. Still no response from her husband.
6. God was working in her life, Levi's descendant was Moses.
7. Leah didn't realize that the love she craved was really there all along.

How many of you have experienced the "if only...then I would be happy. If only...I would get pregnant, if only my husband would get a different job, so I could be a stay-at-home mom, if only we could get a bigger house as our author Rachel wished for. She wanted a bigger house as they were living in a small house 1,300 sq. feet with 8 family members (6 children). She wanted a bigger house and a bigger yard. Instead of letting go, trusting and waiting on the Lord, the dream blue house went up for sale and it went to the highest offer, not Rachel's family. Two years later, the Lord called them out of that community. The small house proved to be much easier to make the move with just a few improvements. If her wish had come true, they would have had to make two moves in two years. No fun!

8. Reader Judges 6:13 **Story of Gideon:** an angel of the Lord spoke to Gideon and asked him to defeat the Midianites. He had a hard time believing God would help him. *If only God was with us...* He continually doubted his people's misfortunes, his abilities, and kept asking for signs.
9. Were you surprised that God whittled Gideon's army down to a slim remnant of 300 when it originally was 22,000 men? He used trumpets and jars and fooled the Midianites. With God's leading, they were victorious.

10. **Did Gideon give God credit for victory?** Sadly, no he did not. He failed to worship the Lord, instead gave glory to himself with a glittering gold ephod. After he died, it became an idol.
11. Conclusion: God is worthy of our praise because our if onlys pale in comparison to His wait and sees.
12. Takeaway truth: "*In their hearts, humans plan their course, but the Lord established their steps.*" Proverbs 16:9.

Day 4: Finding Love After All

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13

1. Comparison game, ex. One upmanship-feeling superior Comparing our children's behavior to others; volunteering more than others, weight gain. One way or another these feelings lead to discouragement or the sin of pride. Either way, we are actually losing in our walk with the Lord and Satan is winning.
2. **Why is the comparison game a win for Satan?** *It either causes pride or self pity—in the end, it is all about us. When we focus on ourselves and not on the Lord, the enemy has us where he wants us.*
3. **Have you ever caught yourself wanting more, without a grateful heart?** When Rachel gave her daughter a cookie, even before eating it, she would ask for a second one. Her reply was if you eat this, and are still hungry you can ask for a second one. Another example, John D. Rockefeller when asked how much money is enough, he responded, "just a little bit more."
4. **How did Leah finally find the love she craved so much?** When Leah gave birth to her 4th son Rueben, she said, "This time, I will praise the Lord." This is how Leah finally found the love she craved so much.
5. **Have you ever heard someone say that going through breast cancer was a good thing?** The gal continued to read scripture verses over and over and praised the Lord and she came out being a testimony of God's goodness. When we are feeling jealousy or self-pity, remember to praise the Lord. It will help us get through the times of discouragement.
6. Rivals or runners: Meg, a runner, makes it to the State Track Championship in her Junior Year. She ran the race and set a record 4 minutes and 58 seconds. Then she entered the second race. When just shy of the finish line, she noticed the girl in front of her struggling. She

stopped, helped the other runner up and walked her to the finish line, letting the girl go across the line before her, thus finishing last. What surprised her was that her story was picked up by ESPN and she received all kinds of attention. When asked why she stopped, she simply said the other girl needed help. Her mother raised her right, to put others first.

7. Reader: Hebrews 12:1 "*let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*"
8. Leah finally got the love she deserved when she praised the Lord for the gift of a 4th son.
9. Conclusion: When you worship God no matter the circumstance, you quit seeing other women as rivals and instead see them as fellow runners in the race of life.
10. Takeaway Truth: *Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.*" Psalm 42:11

Week 2: Day 5

"For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah.

1. **Who was Judah?** *He was the 4th Son of Leah.*
2. Was she still unhappy? No, Leah stopped looking for the love of her husband, instead, she started praising the Lord and found her purpose. She let go of her plans and surrendered fully to the Lord.
3. **What was God's purpose for Leah?** *He made her a matriarch in the family line of Christ. She was the mother of Judah.*
4. Rachel and Leah, along with their concubines, would bear 12 sons for Jacob. These became the 12 tribes of Israel.
5. Joseph, the youngest son, played a key role in their family's survival during the 7 years of drought. However, God chose Judah to be the leader and forefather of the Messiah.
6. **How did Joseph's brothers treat him?** *They were jealous of their little brother because their father had shown favoritism, received a special coat of many colors, and shared spectacular dreams about them bowing down to him.*
7. Reader: Genesis 37:26-27. **Who spoke up for Joseph?** *It was Judah who kept his siblings from killing him, but it was deplorable that he got his brothers to agree to selling him into slavery and then deceived his father*

by saying a wild animal must have killed him showing his father the coat with blood. We don't know if Judah's heart was selfish or merciful.

8. Judah was a leader of the family. (2nd youngest). **What is a legacy?** Is it leaving the biggest mark for your family? Is it being rich, famous, talented, accomplished, and beautiful? Human nature is to think of our legacy as what we have accomplished in life such as how many people did I lead to Christ, how many mission trips did I go on? All are good, but it points to us not Christ.
9. **A true legacy is living a life that offers a heart of praise to the Lord.**
10. Rachel gave an example from Westminster Catechism, a 350-year-old collection of theological sayings that sums up how we are to live: *Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.*
11. Reader Romans 12: 1 In the Old Testament, living sacrifices were usually the slaughtering of an animal or burning grain. In the New Testament, it is a living sacrifice, meaning inner obedience.
12. A good example is Mary, the mother of Jesus, *I am the Lord's servant, Luke 1:38.*
13. As a host when having a houseful of people for a meal, I do appreciate help. Remember the story of Martha and Mary. Martha chose to sit at the feet of Jesus. Luke 10:38-42. In my human thinking, I have felt sorry for Mary, carrying the load, but now I see that Martha chose the best role.
14. **What does the lion of Judah mean?** (Handout) In Biblical times, the land was divided into two regions, the north was Israel, and the south was Judah. Even today, Judaism is what is referred to as those who believe in the Old Testament. God's people were called Jews.
15. Stories in the Bible center around the locations of Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives.
16. Why did God choose Judah to be the leader? Why not Joseph? We don't understand God's decisions. Judah made mistakes, but God still chose him. Why not the other brothers? Reuben, the firstborn, gave up his rightful blessing because he slept with one of his father's concubines. Simeon and Levi were passed over because of their vengefulness.
17. **What three things did Jacob prophesy that would happen to Judah's family?**
 - A. Judah's brothers will praise him.
 - B. Your hand will be on the neck of your enemies
 - C. Your father's sons will bow down to you.

19. Rulers in Judah's descendants included King David and the King of Kings, Jesus.
 20. Reader: Revelation 5:5. What animal is depicted? It is a lion because it is strong, bold, and victorious.
 21. Rachel asked us to use our artistic ability to draw a sketch of a lion trampling a snake. In John 8:44, words murderer, liar; Roams 16:20 crushed and 1 Corinthians 15:54-55 earth, swallowed-up.
Play the Leeland song "Lion and the Lamb."
 22. **How was Leah honored when she died?** She was buried in the Promised Land and honored when she passed? *She was buried in the tomb with Jacob and Rebekah.*
 23. *Conclusion: A woman of true worship chooses to leave a legacy of victorious praise—giving God glory by offering up herself as a living sacrifice.*
- Takeaway Truth: "See the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed." Revelation 5:5.*

4 Powerful Reasons to Understand and Know Jesus as the Lion of Judah

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Often, when we think of Jesus one of the images that come to mind is the lamb. After all, when John the Baptist was about to baptize Jesus, he declared him the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. When you think of a lamb you think of tenderness, gentleness, and I would add even submissiveness.

While Jesus was all these things, there is another description of Jesus in Scripture that is the complete opposite of him as a lamb. That description is the Lion of Judah. I think we understand the importance of knowing Jesus as the lamb. I want to give you four reasons to know Jesus as the Lion of Judah.

Photo credit: Unsplash/Ingo Stiller

What Does Lion of Judah Mean? To get an understanding of this phrase, there are two places in [Scripture](#) where the lion and Judah are tied together. One of them is in Revelation.

“Then one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals’” ([Revelation 5:5](#)).

Let’s consider the significance of the tribe of Judah. Judah was one of the twelve sons of Jacob. To make it simple, the descendants of these sons formed the twelve tribes of Israel. A reference to the tribe of Judah is a reference to the human or natural lineage of Christ. You can read the genealogy in [Matthew 1](#).

Jesus was a descendant of Judah which also included David, Solomon, eventually making its way all the way down to Joseph, Jesus’ earthly father (actually stepfather if you want to be technical).

The other mention of the lion happens in [Genesis 49](#). In this occasion, Jacob calls his sons together and tells them what will happen to each of them in the days to come. Clearly Jacob is speaking with prophetic language. When he gets to his son Judah here is what he proclaims:

“Judah, your brothers will praise you; your hand will be on the neck of your enemies; your father’s sons will bow down to you. You are a lion’s cub, Judah; you return from the prey, my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness—who dares to rouse him? The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his. He will tether his donkey to a vine, his colt to the choicest branch; he will wash his garments in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes. His eyes will be darker than wine, his teeth whiter than milk” ([Genesis 49:8-12](#)).

When you consider these verses, then a reference to the Lion of the tribe of Judah points to the conquering, victorious king that would descend from Judah’s lineage. We know that this lion was pointing to only one person, Jesus himself, God in human form, who is the lion of the tribe of

Judah. This truth is important because it fulfills the promise and prophecy of God's word. It also gives us hope and confidence in this one who will ultimately be our deliverer.