

Women in the
Bible:
Leah
and me

“Your word is lamp
for my feet and a
light for my path.”

Psalms 119:105

Unloved by her
husband but favoured
by God



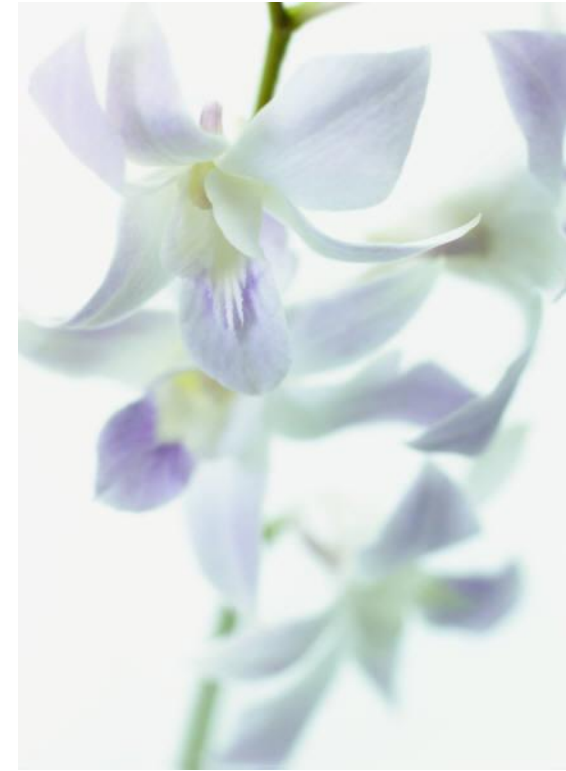
Leah

Key Scripture: Genesis 29-31

Her Name Means "Weary"

Introduction

Leah was the daughter of Laban, sister of Rachel and first wife of Jacob. Her father Laban misled Jacob when according to the custom Leah was veiled when taken to the bridegroom instead of her sister, who Jacob loved. This resulted in a lifelong rivalry between the two sisters. The Bible says that Leah had "delicate eyes", but her sister was beautiful in appearance and form. However, Leah found favour in the eyes of God, He blessed her with children, while Rachel remained barren for a time.



Leah

Her Name Means "Weary"

Leah found a different path to love: through her children and possibly through her husband as well. God blessed Leah, as the Saviour is descended from her ancestry, namely Judah's line. Leah's excellence of character as well as her sincerity, kindness and piety eventually changed Jacob's attitude too.

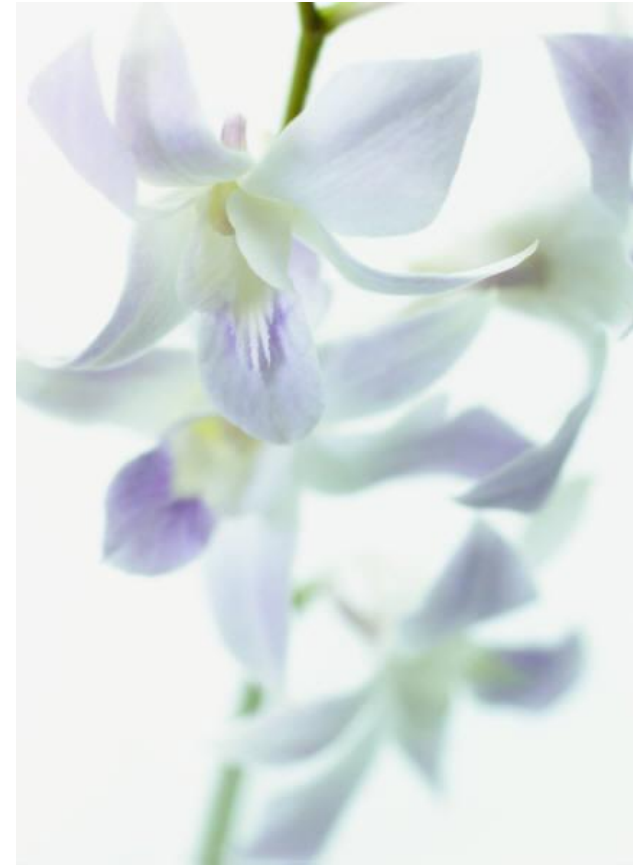
Even today, women face traditional and cultural difficulties in their marriage, but God never forgets or abandons them. We can always have a refuge in Him.

Leah

Her Name Means "Weary"

Discover

- * Her role as a daughter
- * Her role as a sister
- * Her role as a wife

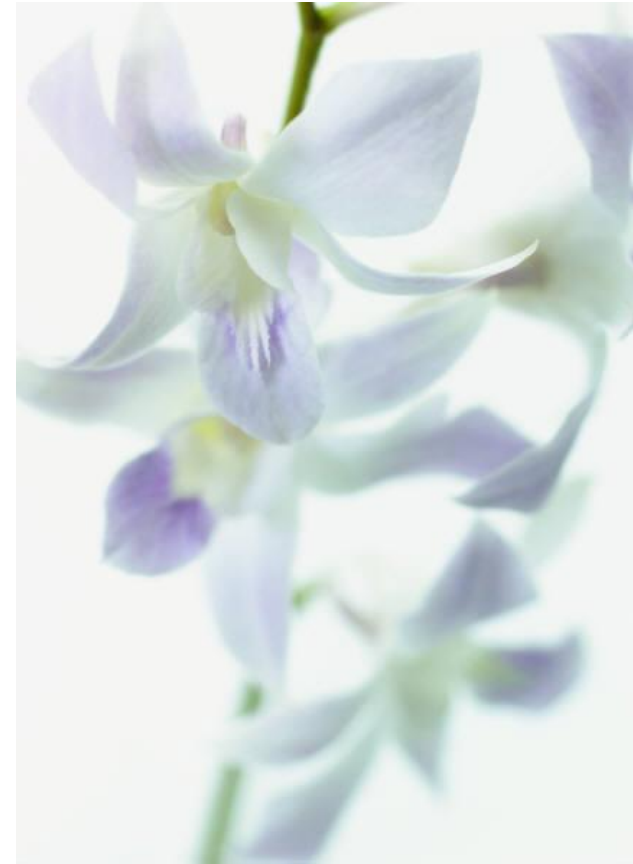


Leah

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Going Deeper

1. Describe how Jacob came to Laban. What was the background? (Genesis 28, 29 first part)
2. Who was Laban to Jacob? (29: 10,14,15)
3. How did Rachel and Jacob meet? (Gen 29: 6-12)



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4. Read the account of the wedding in Gen. 29:21-30
5. How many children did Leah have? (Gen. 29:31-35; 30:14-21)
6. What kind of names did Leah give to her sons? What does this tell us about her way of thinking and about her relationship with God?

Leah

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7. How many children did Rachel have? Read Gen 30:22-24, 35:16-18
8. Compared to her sister, Rachel, was Leah more faithful to God? (Gen 31:19)
9. Did Leah's character change Jacob's attitude towards her? (Gen 31:4, 14; 49:31)



Leah

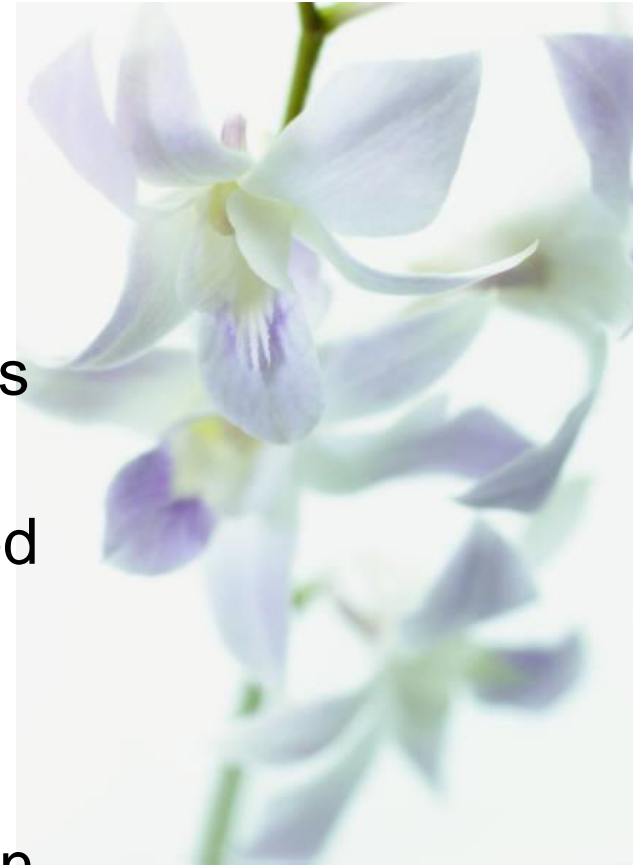
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Words for Today

10. How would you have reacted in Leah's situation?

11. Think of a time when you felt unwanted and unloved. How did God comfort you? What other blessing did He give you?

12. How can you help others in similar situations? What promises can be found in the Bible for women who are unloved?



Questions for Discussion

1. Can Jacob's double marriage be justified on the grounds that God eventually made it the means of multiplying his seed, and so fulfilling His promise? (Lev. 18:18)
2. Rachel received beauty as a gift from God. Leah had "delicate" eyes, possibly not so beautiful, but she was faithful in character to God. Which of these characteristics are more important, and why?



Words of Wisdom

We can all find ourselves in circumstances that are beyond our will and consent, in situations when we do not know what to do. We might feel unloved and unwanted in many situations, but, compared to man, God always loves us. He said "I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;" (Isaiah 49:15, 16)

When we lean upon the Lord we can experience his love and comfort in our lives. The good news is that His love never ends! He promised us: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness." (Jeremiah 31:3) Cling to this promise and experience His love day by day!



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My Prayer for Today

Lord, give me strength to find You in my life when I feel rejected and unloved. Help me to trust in your plan even in my darkest days and fill me with Your Spirit.

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Sharing

Leah's story is not an ideal love story in the Bible, but God still wants us to learn about it. Even today, there are cultures where girls have little or no choice in selecting their husbands. God wants these women to know that he treasures them, no matter how they are treated. As we study the story of Leah, let us as women encourage each other with the message that, regardless of our circumstances, God can always bring blessings to our lives. Who is the woman you can lift up today in prayer?