

FOREMOTHERS RACHEL & LEAH

L/O: For our young daughters to learn about our foremother Rachel & Leah. Key points to take from this is that these women are a part of bringing forth the sons of Israel.

TEACH:

1. Jacob meets Rachel.

Say: Jacob journeyed to the land of the east and came across a flock of sheep's and brethren that he conversed with. Rachel came with her father's sheep and Jacob saw her which was the beginning of Jacob's pursuit of Rachel. '

Genesis 29:9 - 12

'And while he yet spake with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep; for she kept them.

And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother.

And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept.

Sarah

And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's brother, and that he was Rebekah's son: and she ran and told her father.'

2. Laban, Rachel's father, meets Jacobs.

Genesis 29:13 - 15

'And it came to pass, when Laban heard the tidings of Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him, and kissed him, and brought him to his house. And he told Laban all these things.

And Laban said to him, Surely thou art my bone and my flesh. And he abode with him the space of a month.

And Laban said unto Jacob, Because thou art my brother, shouldest thou therefore serve me for nought? tell me, what shall thy wages be?'

Say: Laban called Jacob his bone and flesh, this shows us that as a nation and a family we are bone and flesh to one another.

3. Laban had another daughter named Leah alongside his daughter Rachel. Jacob wanted to work for Laban so that he could marry Rachel.

Genesis 29:16 - 20

'And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah was tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured.

And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter.

And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me.

And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her.'

Say: But Laban deceives Jacob and gave Leah his firstborn unto him.

Genesis 29:21 - 29

'And Jacob said unto Laban, Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her.

And Laban gathered together all the men of the place, and made a feast.

And it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to him; and he went in unto her.

And Laban gave unto his daughter Leah Zilpah his maid for an handmaid.

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And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it was Leah: and he said to Laban, What is this thou hast done unto me? did not I serve with thee for Rachel? wherefore then hast thou beguiled me?

And Laban said, It must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn.

Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years.

And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also.

And Laban gave to Rachel his daughter Bilhah his handmaid to be her maid.'

4. The LORD saw that Jacob hated Leah and he decided to open her womb so that she could conceive. Rachel who was loved by Jacob was barren.

Genesis 29:30 - 31

'And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years.

And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren.'

Question:

How many years did Jacob work for Laban thus far?

Say: although Rachel's womb was closed and Leah's open, Rachel did eventually conceive. Listen closely to the children that Leah and Rachel bore unto Jacob. Let's start off with Leah and her handmaid Zilpah. (after you read all the names and their meanings, ask your child/ren what the names mean)

#1 Reuben: Genesis 29:32

'And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Reuben: for she said, Surely the LORD hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me.'

#2 Simeon: Genesis 29: 33

'And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Because the LORD hath heard that I was hated, he hath therefore given me this son also: and she called his name Simeon.'

#3 Levi: Genesis 29:34

'And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Now this time will my husband be joined unto me, because I have born him three sons: therefore was his

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name called Levi.'

#4 Judah: Genesis 29:35

'And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing.'

#5 Gad: Genesis 30: 9 - 12

'When Leah saw that she had left bearing, she took Zilpah her maid, and gave her Jacob to wife.

And Zilpah Leah's maid bare Jacob a son.

And Leah said, A troop cometh: and she called his name Gad.

And Zilpah Leah's maid bare Jacob a second son.'

#6 Asher: Genesis 30: 13

'And Leah said, Happy am I, for the daughters will call me blessed: and she called his name Asher.'

#7 Issachar: Genesis 30:14 - 18

'And Reuben went in the days of wheat harvest, and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them unto his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, Give me, I pray thee, of thy son's mandrakes.

And she said unto her, Is it a small matter that thou hast taken my husband? and wouldest thou take away

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my son's mandrakes also? And Rachel said, Therefore he shall lie with thee to night for thy son's mandrakes. And Jacob came out of the field in the evening, and Leah went out to meet him, and said, Thou must come in unto me; for surely I have hired thee with my son's mandrakes. And he lay with her that night. And God hearkened unto Leah, and she conceived, and bare Jacob the fifth son. And Leah said, God hath given me my hire, because I have given my maiden to my husband: and she called his name Issachar.'

#8 Zebulun: Genesis 30:19 - 20

'And Leah conceived again, and bare Jacob the sixth son.

And Leah said, God hath endued me with a good dowry; now will my husband dwell with me, because I have born him six sons: and she called his name Zebulun.'

#9 Dinah: Genesis 30:21

'And afterwards she bare a daughter, and called her name Dinah.'

RACHEL AND BILHAH

#1 Dan: Genesis 30:1 - 6

'And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die.

And Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel: and he said, Am I in God's stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb?

And she said, Behold my maid Bilhah, go in unto her; and she shall bear upon my knees, that I may also have children by her.

And she gave him Bilhah her handmaid to wife: and Jacob went in unto her.

And Bilhah conceived, and bare Jacob a son.

And Rachel said, God hath judged me, and hath also heard my voice, and hath given me a son: therefore called she his name Dan.'

#2 Naphtali: Genesis 30:7 - 8

'And Bilhah Rachel's maid conceived again, and bare Jacob a second son.

And Rachel said, With great wrestlings have I wrestled with my sister, and I have prevailed: and she called his name Naphtali.'

#3 Joseph: Genesis 30:22 - 24

'And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb.

And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach:

And she called his name Joseph; and said, The LORD shall add to me another son.'

#4 Benjamin: Genesis 35:16 - 20

'And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour.

And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also.

And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin.

And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem.

And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that is the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this day.'

(you can just read Genesis 35:23 - 26 for brief history for a thorough history read up above)

Genesis 35:23 - 26

'The sons of Leah; Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, and Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Zebulun:

The sons of Rachel; Joseph, and Benjamin:

And the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's handmaid; Dan, and Naphtali:

And the sons of Zilpah, Leah's handmaid; Gad, and Asher: these are the sons of Jacob, which were born to him in Padanaram.'

Questions:

1. What was Laban's daughters' relationship like during their marriage with Jacob?
2. What have you learned about Leah?
3. What have you learned about Rachel?
4. What have you learned about this history?

End of class