

# Message Notes

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**Leah: A Woman with a Miserable Marriage**

Women of Grace

Genesis 29:16-30:21

May 6, 2007

# Message Outline

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## The MISERY of Leah's Life

1. NOT ATTRACTIVE in Appearance (29:17)
2. NOT PROTECTED by Laban (29:21-26)
3. NOT LOVED by Jacob (29:30-31)
4. NOT WELCOMED by Rachel (30:1-21)
5. NOT FULFILLED in Family Life (29:30-30:21)

**NOT FORGOTTEN by the Lord (29:31)**

## The MOVEMENT of Leah's Life

1. REUBEN: *The Lord has seen my misery, now my husband will love me*
2. SIMEON: *The Lord has heard that I am unloved*
3. LEVI: *The Lord has seen my affliction, now my husband will be attached to me*
4. JUDAH: *I will praise the Lord*

## The MEANING of Leah's Life

1. The Lord Saw
2. Leah Trusted
3. The Lord Blessed

## ***Growth Group Understanding Questions***

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### ***Leah: A Woman with a Miserable Marriage***

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1. Read the story of Leah again in Genesis 29:16-30:21. What is most sad about this story to you?
2. Does the deception of Laban remind you of anything else? How about the competition between the sisters?
3. Based on the text, how long did Leah have Jacob to herself? What indications are there that Leah loved and desired Jacob's love?
4. How is the work of God in Leah's life different than the work of God in Rachel's life? What does each have? What does each not have? What does each learn?
5. Look more closely at the naming of Leah's first four children? What is present in each? Is there a progression? What is striking about the 4<sup>th</sup>? But look at the naming of the 6<sup>th</sup> son in 30:20. What do we see again? What do we learn from this?
6. What's the deal with the mandrakes in 30:14-17?
7. Explain this statement: "Leah's life is miserable, but not meaningless." What is the ultimate, lasting meaning of Leah's life?

## ***Growth Group Application Questions***

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### ***Leah: A Woman with a Miserable Marriage***

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1. What was new and most challenging in the text/message this week and why?
2. We are so driven by the pursuit of our own happiness. Why is that? How does that play out and shape our lives? How does the story of Leah challenge this approach to life?
3. What's the difference between Leah and her misery in marriage and someone who is miserable in marriage today?
4. How do we see the gospel of Grace at work in this messed up family?
5. What are some examples of other situations, personally, historically or Biblically where God brings meaning and blessing out of misery?
6. How does Leah's story challenge your view of God and your expectations of life? What if life is "not designed to make you feel good, but to make God look good?"