



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of July 24, 2022

The LORD Saw That Leah Was Hated

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Genesis 29:31-35](#)

³¹ When the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. ³² And Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben, for she said, "Because the LORD has looked upon my affliction; for now my husband will love me." ³³ She conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Because the LORD has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son also." And she called his name Simeon. ³⁴ Again she conceived and bore a son, and said, "Now this time my husband will be attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore his name was called Levi. ³⁵ And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "This time I will praise the LORD." Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she ceased bearing.

- Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah, and served Laban for another seven years. ([Genesis 29:30](#)). Now, we are given a window into Leah's next seven years. **Where do you have to endure with patience and trust, even through pain?**
- The covenant name of "the LORD" is mentioned here for the first time in this story, then repeatedly. **Why might that be significant?**
- Leah bears four sons, and the meaning of each son's name is associated with the comments made by Leah:
 - **Reuben** means "See, a Son" (32). However, **what does Leah long for?**
 - **Simeon** sounds like the Hebrew for "Hear" (33). However, **what does Leah long for?**
 - **Levi** sounds like the Hebrew for "Attach" (34). However, **what does Leah long for?**
 - **Judah** sounds like the Hebrew for "Praise" (35). At the naming of Judah, is Leah resigned? Resolved? Triumphant? **What is going on here?**
- From the outset, Jacob loved Rachel and found Leah undesirable. Yet, it is Leah who bears sons while Rachel is barren. **What do you think this stretch of years was like for**

Leah? For Rachel? What might be going on in the hearts of each woman?

- Do you have any place in your life where you constantly feel like a **failure, passed over, or unloved**? How does this sort of **experience wear on your heart**? What temptations do you experience?
- **Life in this fallen world is one of constant longing.** We groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling ([II Corinthians 5:2](#)). And creation itself waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God ([Romans 8:19](#)). Our hearts will never be satisfied or rest in anything less than God Himself. **Repent and pray together** in light of this week's passage. Thank the LORD for all of His blessings, especially for the gift of Jesus, our heart's True Longing and the Desire of Nations ([Haggai 2:7](#)).

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