



**A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of July 31, 2022**

***Then God Remembered Rachel***

*This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Genesis 30:1-24](#)*

- **We might be quick to say that we trust Christ alone, but can often live as if the Lord was more a “just-in-case” backup plan if our day is not going well. How have you operated as though God was your safety net?**

<sup>1</sup> When Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she envied her sister. She said to Jacob, “Give me children, or I shall die!” <sup>2</sup> Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel, and he said, “Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?” <sup>3</sup> Then she said, “Here is my servant Bilhah; go in to her, so that she may give birth on my behalf, that even I may have children through her.” <sup>4</sup> So she gave him her servant Bilhah as a wife, and Jacob went in to her. <sup>5</sup> And Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son. <sup>6</sup> Then Rachel said, “God has judged me, and has also heard my voice and given me a son.” Therefore she called his name Dan. <sup>7</sup> Rachel's servant Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son. <sup>8</sup> Then Rachel said, “With mighty wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister and have prevailed.” So she called his name Naphtali.

- **How would you describe the relationship between Rachel and Leah?**
- **Why does Rachel envy her sister Leah? (1)**
- **How does Rachel threaten Jacob (1)**
- **Why is Jacob angry with Rachel? (2)**
- **What solution does Rachel propose? (3)**
- **Rachel gets the surrogate sons she wanted according to her own plan. But as she looks at them, she experiences deep and painful disappointment. The name Dan means “He Judged” (5-6). Naphtali means “Wrestle” (7-8). What does Rachel see when she names Jacob's sons?**

<sup>9</sup> When Leah saw that she had ceased bearing children, she took her servant Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife. <sup>10</sup> Then Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a son. <sup>11</sup> And Leah said, “Good fortune has come!” so she called his name Gad. <sup>12</sup> Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a second son. <sup>13</sup> And Leah said, “Happy am I! For women have called me happy.” So she called his name Asher.

- **Leah has practical and heart reasons for bringing Zilpah to Jacob. How would you describe these reasons? (9-13)**

<sup>14</sup> In the days of wheat harvest Reuben went and found mandrakes in the field and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, “Please give me some of your son's mandrakes.” <sup>15</sup> But she said to her, “Is it a small matter that you have taken away my husband? Would you take away my son's mandrakes also?” Rachel said, “Then he may lie with you tonight in exchange for your son's mandrakes.” <sup>16</sup> When Jacob came from the field in the evening, Leah went out to meet him and said, “You must come in to me, for I have hired you with my son's mandrakes.” So he lay with her that night. <sup>17</sup> And God listened to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son. <sup>18</sup> Leah said, “God has given me my wages because I gave my servant to my husband.” So she called his name Issachar.

<sup>19</sup> And Leah conceived again, and she bore Jacob a sixth son. <sup>20</sup> Then Leah said, “God has endowed me with a good endowment; now my husband will honor me, because I have borne him six sons.” So she called his name Zebulun. <sup>21</sup> Afterward she bore a daughter and called her name Dinah.

- **Mandrakes were thought to increase fertility, so Rachel was eager for them (14). But the outcome of this episode is ironic: The mandrakes cannot save Rachel, and Leah gains another son as she parts with them. Can you share a story of a time you through you had a solution, but it ended in disappointment?**
- **It is hard for us that growth often comes through longing and disappointment. Like Rachel and Leah, we feel the pain of longing, and will do anything to satisfy it. Instead of following our deepest longings all the way back to God, we stop short with created things and man-made solutions. Then, we experience profound disappointment expressed in our blame and anger. Disappointment is actually a gift, and Jesus can use it to lead us to cry out to Him. Can you share a time when disappointment led you to trust or cry out to the Lord?**

<sup>22</sup> Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb. <sup>23</sup> She conceived and bore a son and said, “God has taken away my reproach.” <sup>24</sup> And she called his name Joseph, saying, “May the LORD add to me another son!”

- **Despite all of this family's anger, fear, manipulation, and negotiation the Lord was faithful at work in light of His promises. “God listened to Leah” (17) and “God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her” (22). How does this encourage you to turn to Jesus today?**
- **Repent and pray together in light of this week's passage. Thank our Heavenly Father for disappointments and the longing for glory they stir. Thank Him for our compassionate Savior, who knows our every need ([Hebrews 4:15](#)). Rely on the Holy Spirit, whose longing for our redemption surpasses our own ([Romans 8:23](#)).**

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