

## **A Word from Kathy**

Everyone loves a good love story, but unfortunately this beautiful love story is marred by deception and jealousy. With every passing day we are each writing our own life story; let's purpose to live in such a way that others will be inspired to know our secret. Of course it is not really a secret; it is the grace and mercy of God working in and through us.

Read the passages at least twice before starting to answer the study guide. Pray, asking the Lord to help you glean all you can from Genesis 29-30:24 so you can accurately apply it to your life.

## **Observation**

1. Jacob has been on a very long journey, from Beersheba to the area of Haran, to locate his mother's family. He was given a direct command from his father to choose a wife from among the daughters of Laban, his uncle. By God's divine guidance he stops at a well and meets some shepherds who were waiting to water their herds. What questions does he ask them? What is their reply?
2. Who does Jacob meet coming to the well while he is talking to the shepherds?
3. What does he tell her?
4. What is her response to meeting Jacob?
5. What emotions do you see here in this family reunion?  
Look at verse 11; what did Jacob do?  
Look at verse 12; what did Rachel do?  
Look at verse 13; what did Laban do?  
Why do you believe they were filled with such joy?  
(try to put yourself in their time period)
6. Jacob lives with Laban for a month according to Gen. 29:14. What was he doing while he was living there (Gen. 29:15)?

7. So far Laban seems like a great uncle,; he is appears to deal fairly with his nephew. What wages does Jacob consider fair (Gen. 29:18)? Do you believe that Laban thought this was a fair arrangement (Gen. 29:19)?
8. How does verse 20 describe Jacob's feelings about his seven-year labor of love?
9. When the time of his seven-year service came to an end, what did Jacob ask Laban to give him?
10. Laban prepared a feast and gave everyone the impression that he was doing exactly what he and Jacob had agreed to. What detail had he neglected to mention to Jacob?
11. That evening, after the celebration was coming to a close, Laban brought his daughter to Jacob with a veil over her face (this was the custom of their day), and she went in to Jacob's tent to consummate their marriage. What surprise did Jacob find the next morning when he awoke?
12. Jacob goes to his father-in-law first thing the next morning. What does he ask Laban? What does Laban give as his reason?
13. What does Laban require of Jacob if he is to marry Rachel?
14. Look closely at the text in verses 28-30; when do you believe Jacob got Rachel for a wife?
15. What wedding gift did Laban give his daughters (Vs. 24, 29)?

**In Gen. 29:31-30:24 we see the birth of the sons of Jacob listed.**

16. What similar disappointment did Rachel have in common with Rebekah, Jacob's mother (Gen. 25:21), and Sarah, Jacob's grandmother (Heb. 11:11)?
17. In what way did the LORD bless Leah?

18. To what length did Rachel go to have a child? What emotion motivated her to go to such an extreme (Gen. 30:1)?
19. Who did Rachel blame for her barrenness? Have we seen anyone else in our study of Genesis who went to such a length for a child? How well did that work out for her?
20. Make four columns and name the sons born to Jacob and the women who bore them. What was the meaning of each name? (Use the Strong's Concordance to find the meanings.)
21. In Gen. 30:14 Reuben, the first born of Leah, found some mandrakes growing in a field. The superstition of the day was that this fruit was an aphrodisiac and could make one fertile if eaten. He gave them to his mother; what did she end up doing with them?



Picture Mandrakes with fruit.

22. When Rachel does become pregnant, what does scripture say is the reason? Did mandrakes have anything to do with it (Gen. 30:22-24)?

## Application

23. What were some of your thoughts as you read Gen. 29:1-20?
24. Do you believe Laban had a clear understanding of Jacob's feelings for Rachel?
25. Why do you suppose those seven years felt like just a few days to Jacob?
26. God has many lessons he is teaching Jacob; what lesson did he learn in Gen. 29:21-25?
27. What type of a home life do you believe Jacob had with his wives? What were things like when he came in weary after a long day?
28. How many women did God plan for a man to have (Gen. 2:24)?  
God's plan is one \_\_\_\_\_ and one \_\_\_\_\_ united into one \_\_\_\_\_.
29. In verses 14-24 we read the story of the mandrakes Reuben found and brought home. Has your desperation ever driven you to do handle things yourself? God longs for us to look to Him as El Shaddai, the all-sufficient source of all blessings. How can you apply this to a desire you have today?
30. It has been said that love = sacrifice. If we want our relationships to be all God has planned, we must know how God would have us deal with others.  
Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8, 13, then ask yourself the questions following.

**1 Corinthians 13:1-8, 13**

If I speak in the tongues of men (*human eloquence*) and of angels (*angelic ecstasy*), but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

**2** If I have the gift of prophecy (*speak with God's power*) and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

**3** If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, (*give myself as a martyr*) but have not love, I gain nothing.

**4** Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. **5** It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

**6** Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

**7** It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

**8** Love never fails....

**13** And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

If love is not the underlying motive for all I say and do, what am I?

Do I persevere patiently as long as it takes, or have I given up on those I claim to love?

Kindness can be defined with words, like mild, pleasant and benevolent. Am I living up to this definition with those I claim to love?

Am I wasting time looking jealously at the relationship of other couples, wishing it were mine? We cannot make others change; we can only change ourselves. To what extent am I willing to change in order to have the relationship I desire?

If you were asked to write a list of your top 10 faults and weaknesses, how long would it take you to do it?

How long would it take you to do this for your mate, your kids, your extended family members, or your neighbors?

What is your attitude at the end of the day when those around you have needs that could be met by you? Does your mate feel your delight when he or she walks in the door, or is your attitude more of a "tag you're it"?

Are the names and reputations of the ones you claim to love safe on your lips? Do you vent and say things that damage their reputation? If those you are talking about heard every word you say, would they still feel loved?

According to 1 Corinthians 13:13, what is the greatest expression of the Lord at work in us? Is it our great faith or our hope for the future, or is it the love we extend in His name?

May God richly bless you in every act of obedience to His Word.