

4. LEAH

READY FOR LOVE?

Genesis 29:31

'When the LORD saw that Leah was not loved, he opened her womb'

There are some pretty bizarre family situations in the Old Testament. It's like stuff on TV. Or maybe it's more like real life? How about this story?

Leah is Rachel's older sister and Rachel is loved by Jacob. But Jacob gets tricked into marrying Leah, the older sister! Jacob doesn't realise until *after* the wedding night! He complains, but discovers that local custom says he's got to marry the eldest daughter first! Weird! So, while still married to Leah, he marries his true love, Rachel, as well.

How would Leah feel in the middle of all this? Her father clearly wants her off his hands. She gets pushed onto her sister's boyfriend and finds that, not only will her sister be mad, but Jacob is clearly not interested at all. The best thing he can say about her is, 'I've been done!'

Leah feels unloved. In her society a woman's sense of worth would come from only three things: being a daughter, a wife or a mother. Leah was an unwanted daughter, a rejected wife and, as yet, childless.

But God saw that Leah was unloved. He did the only thing in that society which would have shown his deep love for her. He blessed her with children. And the story goes on to show that one of her children was Judah. Jesus is described as 'the Lion of the tribe of Judah' (Rev. 5:5), a direct descendant of Leah! Although she was rejected by people, God chose Leah to carry his great promise of redemption to the next generation.

We all need love and affection. Without it we wilt and fade and struggle to know our true worth.

Are you feeling unloved? Well, the One who saw Leah also sees you. He will not forget you.

Feeling unloved makes you more open to receiving God's love