



## Genesis Lesson 24 Chapter 30

*To escape the wrath of Esau at the loss of his blessing, Jacob has run to Haran to his mother's family. Here he falls in love with his cousin Rachel and agrees with Laban, her father, to work seven years in exchange for her. Unfortunately, Laban, though following the traditions of his people regarding the marriage of the oldest daughter, deceptively gives his oldest daughter, Leah, to Jacob. Jacob then agrees to work a second seven-year*

*period for Rachel. Over the next several years, Jacob's family will grow as Leah competes with Rachel for Jacob's love and devotion. It will eventually be the offspring of Jacob's twelve sons that will inherit and claim the actual land of the covenant promise, but only one of those sons will be privileged to bring the blessing to the nations in the promised Redeemer.*

### READ CHAPTER 30

1. *What does Rachel's statement in vs.1 tell you about the focus of her life? Have you ever desired something so much that it consumed your thoughts until you believed you couldn't live without it? Explain.*
  
2. *What are the names of Rachel's sons through her handmaid Bilhah, and what do those names tell you about Rachel's heart?*

3. *What are the names of Leah's sons through her handmaid Zilpah?*



*The mandrake was a rare plant that grew in Palestine. It bore yellow fruit that was somewhat smaller than a tomato, and it had an acquired pleasant taste. It was believed to have aphrodisiac properties and was therefore given the names "love apple" or "devil's apple." The conversation between Rachel and Leah gives the impression they believed the plant to have the properties of a love potion. (Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia)*

4. *What deal was made between Rachel and Leah regarding the mandrakes, and what was the outcome?*

5. *Why did Rachel finally bear a child, and did it satisfy the longing of her heart? Explain.*

6. *Why did Laban want Jacob to stay, and what deal did Laban make with Jacob in order to keep him from leaving?*

7. *What did Laban do that made it less possible for Jacob to increase his own flock?*

8. *It is believed that the rods that Jacob put in the water for the flocks were actually a natural stimulant for putting the females in heat. Although Jacob used good sense and the resources available to him to increase his flock, what does he know is the reason for his success? Genesis 31:9*

***Prayer requests:***

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***Group time notes:***

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