

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Open: When you feel rejected how do you normally respond? Why is rejection such a painful emotion for all people to deal with?

Read: Genesis 29:21-35

Background:

re•jec•tion \ri-ˈjek-shən\ n

a: the action of rejecting : the state of being rejected; something rejected

Leah's situation was a tough one. A phony marriage, a husband that loves her sister, and the hopelessness of a cold marriage. Jacob didn't want Leah; he probably didn't mind her much, he might have even liked her as a friend, but he *wanted* Rachel. Jacob was a passionate man because he worked fourteen years for Rachel; he never lifted a finger for Leah.

Leah felt pain, the worst kind of pain. But she neither withdrew her love for her husband nor *trusted in him to make her ultimately happy*. She kept hoping, wishing that Jacob would hold one more baby boy and give her just one loving look. She remained vulnerable; she remained faithful to her husband to whom she had made vows, even if they were made under false pretences. But if Leah had been trusting in Jacob to make her happy and give her life meaning, she would have given up and joined a group of roaming desert nomads. Leah came from good stock, and she knew all about Abraham and Isaac. She knew that her life was part of plan, a plan more profound than her own personal happiness and self-fulfillment.

Leah named her fourth child "Judah," because she praised the Lord. In your suffering you can have hope and praise the Lord. Leah was part of a plan—from her child came the Messianic line. You are part of a plan and God hasn't forgotten about you. (Kimberly R. Wood)

Review the Lessons We Can Learn From the Life of Leah:

- 1 Try to understand what brings you fear about the situation
- 2 Be careful where you get your self worth
- 3 Rejection is inevitable in this life
- 4 Keep at it even though the situation seems risky
- 5 Have your focus on the right thing

Reflect:

As we face life and rejection we need to be like Leah and say, "This time I will praise the Lord." Even though Leah endured rejection, God had a great plan and purpose for her life. Leah gave birth to 6 sons—half of the 12 tribes of Israel (2 were from Rachel and 4 were from the hand-maids). Leah was the mother of Judah who was the forefather of King David and Jesus Christ.

Read Isaiah 53:3-5. How can this passage help you face the fear of rejection in your life? How can this passage help you "praise the Lord" even when you feel rejected?

Close in prayer

Fear of Rejection (Part #2)
January 16—22

**Facing
OUR
FEARS**

God...
Rejection...
Failure...
Death...

