

## Unloved Leah

There was once a man named Jacob. Jacob and his mother played a very mean trick on his father and his brother. When his brother found out what Jacob had done, their mother told Jacob to run away and go live with her brother Laban in a faraway land called Haran. Jacob listened to his mother, and he traveled many miles until he came to a place with lots of sheep and a well. He didn't know where he was, so he went up to the people there watering their sheep and asked them. They told him he was in Haran. He asked if they knew Laban. They did know Laban! They told Jacob that Laban's daughter Rachel would soon be to the well to water his sheep. As they were talking, Rachel walked up. Jacob took one look at Rachel and fell in love because she was very beautiful. He introduced himself and Rachel took him to meet her father, Laban. Laban was excited to meet him, and Jacob stayed with them.

Jacob worked as a helper for Laban for about a month and then Laban asked him how he could pay him for his work. Jacob said, "I will work for you for 7 years if at the end of the 7 years you let me marry your daughter, Rachel." Laban agreed so Jacob worked for him for 7 long years. He didn't mind the work because he loved Rachel. At the end of the 7 years, Laban gathered all his friends to have a big wedding feast for Jacob and his daughter but then Laban did a very mean, tricky thing. Laban had two daughters; Rachel was the younger daughter. The older daughter's name was Leah. Leah wasn't beautiful like Rachel and Jacob didn't not love her. He only loved Rachel. When it was time for the wedding, Laban dressed up Leah in the wedding clothes instead of Rachel. With all the special wedding clothes, maybe even a veil over her face, Jacob couldn't tell that it wasn't Rachel, and he married the wrong girl.

The next day when he realized what had happened, he was very angry. He went to Laban and said, "Did I not agree to work for you to marry Rachel?" Laban answered, "in this country we give our oldest daughter to be married before our younger daughters." He didn't tell Jacob that part until it was too late. Jacob still wanted to marry Rachel so he told Laban he would work for another 7 years to be able to marry Rachel too. In those days, lots of people had more than one wife even though God never liked that plan. So, Joseph worked for another 7 years and finally got to marry the woman he loved, Rachel.

Getting married to sisters was not a good plan. He only loved one of them, so Leah was stuck being married to someone who did not love her. God could see that people hated Leah, but He loved her. He loved her even though she wasn't beautiful like her sister. So, God blessed Leah. God gave Leah lots of babies to love and so she would be loved.