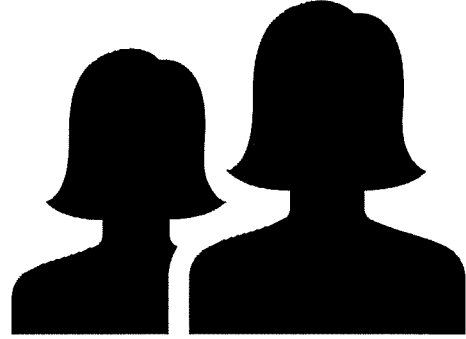


Leah and Rachel

Directions: Read the biography and answer the questions. (Read more about the lives of Leah and Rachel in Genesis 29-33, 35.)

Leah and Rachel are among the matriarchs of Israel from whom God's people are descended. They were sisters and wives to the patriarch Jacob, to whom God gave the name Israel. Jacob first met Rachel at a well and fell in love with her at first sight. He vowed to work for Rachel's father, Laban, for seven years to earn her hand in marriage, but Laban tricked Jacob into marrying Rachel's older sister Leah instead. Jacob then married Rachel as well and worked another seven years to earn the right to marry her. This was at a time in the ancient world when some men had more than one wife. At first Rachel was unable to have children so Leah gave birth to Jacob's first sons. Jacob continued to favor Rachel and Leah resented her for this. Rachel was finally able to give birth to a son she named Joseph, who became Jacob's favorite son. Rachel later died giving birth to Jacob's youngest son, Benjamin, and she was buried in the territory where Benjamin's descendants later lived. Leah was buried along with her husband Jacob and his parents (Isaac and Rebekah) and grandparents (Abraham and Sarah).



1. Jacob worked hard for many years to earn the right to marry Rachel. What can young men do today to show respect and admiration to young women?

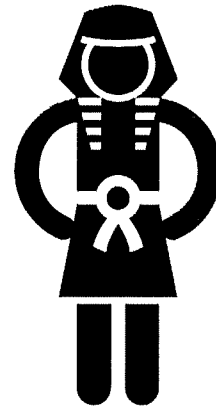
2. Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah, yet Leah is the mother of the most sons of Israel. What qualities do you think Leah had to be rewarded by God with so many children?

3. Even in the Bible, marriages and family life can be imperfect. Write a prayer asking for God's blessing on your family despite any imperfections.

Joseph

Directions: Read the biography and answer the questions. (Read more about the life of Joseph in Genesis 37-50.)

Joseph was the son of Jacob, one of the patriarchs of the people of God. Jacob favored Joseph over all his other sons and gave him a special robe that made the others very jealous. In addition to the robe, Joseph interpreted a dream he had that his brothers and parents would bow down to him one day. This angered Joseph's brothers so much that they tried to kill him, but then decided to sell him as a slave instead. Joseph ended up as a slave then as a prisoner in Egypt. While imprisoned he became known for his ability to interpret dreams. He was brought to the Pharaoh, king of Egypt, to interpret his dreams about the coming of a famine. The Pharaoh appointed Joseph to a special position to oversee all of Egypt. When the famine struck, Joseph's brothers came seeking help from the Egyptians. They did not recognize their brother Joseph, but Joseph recognized them. He revealed to them that he was the brother that they thought was dead. Joseph was reunited with his father, Jacob, and welcomed the entire family into Egypt. He forgave his brothers for their evil deeds because he knew it was all a part of God's plan to help them survive the famine.



1. How did Joseph become one of the leaders in Egypt?

2. Why did Joseph so easily forgive his brothers?

3. Is there anyone you need to more easily forgive?
