



11.  Yes  No Are these good reasons to have children?

*Gen 30:1-7 Rachel noticed that she was not bearing children for Jacob, so because she envied her sister Leah, she told Jacob, "If you don't give me sons, I'm going to die!" That made Jacob angry with Rachel, so he asked her, "Can I take God's place, who has not allowed you to conceive? Rachel responded, "Here's my handmaid Bilhah. Go have sex with her. She can bear children on my knees so I can have children through her." So Rachel gave Jacob her woman servant Bilhah to be his wife, and Jacob had sex with her. Bilhah conceived and bore a son for Jacob. Then Rachel said, "God has vindicated me! He has heard my voice and has given me a son." Therefore, she named him Dan. Rachel's servant conceived again and bore a second son for Jacob, so Rachel said, "I've been through a mighty struggle with my sister and won." She named him Naphtali.*

12. What were Jacob & Rachel arguing about in these verses?

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### A FEW OBSERVATIONS

- *The wives were competing with each other as to how to please their husband, Jacob, by having more children.*
- *The reasons for having the children revealed deep sadness in the lives of these women.*
- *The dysfunction of this family continued and some of the sons made very poor choices.*

13. You might be facing heartbreak right now with the behavior & bad choices of a child. You might even be blaming yourself for your bad choices, or for not being at home.

- a.  Yes  No Have you thought that it is too late to fix it?
- b.  Yes  No Do you blame yourself?
- c.  Yes  No Are you blaming the mother of the children?
- d.  Yes  No Do you sometimes think that since you have been a failure with your kids, you will be a failure with everything?

*I remember a time of bad behavior with anger with my family. I apologized to them all but I could not forgive myself. I was active in my church at the time. When asked to give a talk in church one Sunday, I had to make a choice to teach as though nothing was wrong and be a complete hypocrite, or start my teaching by confessing my issues. I chose the second option, and the class was a wonderful time of vulnerability for all. Other times, I chickened out & declined the assignment.*

14. Which choice would God prefer for me? \_\_\_\_\_

*Jacob was Abraham's grandson; Abraham was chosen to leave the sinful life of Ur and go to Israel to follow God with a life of righteous, and to share that with the whole world. Jacob was born into the middle of God's plan. We all are. We have no choice; it's either run from God forever, or say, "Here I am, Lord."*

15. Look up Genesis 32:1-21. Who was Jacob about ready to meet with? \_\_\_\_\_  
*They had not seen each other or spoken to each other for 21 years.*

*Jacob had been running from everybody his whole life.*

16. Look up Genesis 32:22-32. Who did Jacob struggle with before his big meeting? \_\_\_\_\_  
*Jacob was tired of running; he wanted his life to change from fear to blessing.*

17. In Genesis 33:3, Jacob stepped out in front of his whole clan to meet the brother he had cheated. He was ready to admit his failures. He said, "Here I am, Lord. Use me."

Have you done this? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

18.  Y  N **Was Jacob disqualified from stepping up and serving God?**