

# WHY HER?

## WHY HER?, PART 1: MUST BE NICE

Whether we like to admit it or not, we all tend to base our worth and value on one thing: how we measure up to the people around us. We compare ourselves to others, and as we will see, trying to measure up only brings us down.

**BIG IDEA:** Comparison is a battle to see whose truth—ours or God’s—we will allow to rule our thoughts and actions.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*\* Remember the goal is to use the questions to generate discussion, not to complete every one.*

1. When have you felt unwanted? Describe a time when you knew you were where you needed to be, but felt unwanted.
2. What are some of the most common ways you compare your life to others' lives?
3. Why do you think it's so natural to compare? What kind of feelings or actions does comparison often lead to?
4. Kim said, *"We love to shout our successes, but seldom share our secret sorrows."* How does social media exacerbate this problem? What can you do to counteract the affect social media has on who we view ourselves?
5. Comparison clouds our minds, creates denial and causes us to see things differently than they really are. When we compare ourselves to others, how do we lose perspective? Finding contentment is accepting who God wants you to be. Describe who you believe that is.
6. [\*With your Bible or Bible App, read Genesis 29:16-30.\*](#)

*<sup>16</sup> Now Laban had two daughters. The older daughter was named Leah, and the younger one was Rachel. <sup>17</sup> "There was no sparkle in Leah's eyes, but Rachel had a beautiful figure and a lovely face. <sup>18</sup> Since Jacob was in love with Rachel, he told her father, "I'll work for you for seven years if you'll give me Rachel, your younger daughter, as my wife." <sup>19</sup> "Agreed!" Laban replied. "I'd rather give her to you than to anyone else. Stay and work with me." <sup>20</sup> So Jacob worked seven years to pay for Rachel. But his love for her was so strong that it seemed to him but a few days. <sup>21</sup> Finally, the time came for him to marry her. "I have fulfilled my agreement," Jacob said to Laban. "Now give me my wife so I can sleep with her." <sup>22</sup> So Laban invited everyone in the neighborhood and prepared a wedding feast. <sup>23</sup> "But that night, when it was dark, Laban took Leah to Jacob, and he slept with her." <sup>25</sup> But when Jacob woke up in the morning—it was Leah! "What have you done to me?" Jacob raged at Laban. "I worked seven years for Rachel! Why have you tricked me?" <sup>26</sup> "It's not our custom here to marry off a younger daughter ahead of the firstborn," Laban replied. <sup>27</sup> "But wait until the bridal week is over; then we'll give you Rachel, too—provided you promise to work another seven years for me." <sup>28</sup> So Jacob agreed to work seven more years. A week after Jacob had married Leah, Laban gave him Rachel, too.<sup>30</sup> So Jacob slept with Rachel, too, and he loved her much more than Leah. He then stayed and worked for Laban the additional seven years.*

[\*Genesis 29:16-30 \(NLT\)\*](#)

7. Who do you think felt worse: Jacob, Leah, or Rachel? Why?
8. "Always a bridesmaid, never a bride." How does that saying (and Leah's experience) fit you?
9. For whose hand have you labored, only to find a surprise twist in the end?

10. Kim said, *"We often lose who are while trying to become someone we are not."* One of the best ways to beat the comparison game is to know who you are and your identity, especially who you are in Christ. What can you do this week to discover who God says you are in Jesus?
11. When have you allowed yourself to believe that God must feel the same way as those who made you feel unwanted? What lies are you believing about yourself?
12. If we're not careful, comparison can lead us to a place of insecurity where we can react or overreact in certain situations. Kim said, *"Honesty leads up to quiet places where we seek to understand rather than react."* Honesty teaches us to walk through desperate moments without having to do destructive things.

## MOVING FORWARD

Leah, Jacob's first wife, knows that Jacob intended to marry her sister, Rachel, not her, and that Jacob doesn't love her despite the many children she gives him. But it is from Leah, not Rachel, that the line of kings comes...culminating in Jesus, the King of Kings. Why does God highlight Leah's story? Why does he choose to bless her with being a forebear of Jesus?

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

*For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.*

Ephesians 6:12 (NLT)

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