

# How To Love Your Wife

## Genesis 29:31-35

*"When the Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren."- Gen. 29:31*

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**Main Point: It's crucial that men demonstrate their love for the women in their lives**

**Introduction:** Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

*Who was your first crush? Did you ever get out of the friend zone?*

*What makes you feel most loved? What makes you feel completely unloved?*

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Through Leah and Jacob's marriage we get a glimpse of what women want in relationship. How they want to be loved and adored by their spouse. Jacob was not the ideal husband in this relationship, but we can learn from his shortcomings.

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**Read Genesis 29:31-35. When a man truly loves a woman he:**

1) **TENDS TO HER NEED TO BE ADORED. Refer back to v. 31-33.**

Looking back on the story of Leah and Jacob, what reasons did Jacob feel he had to ignore Leah and her needs? (Gen. 29:18-30)

To "adore" someone means "to regard with the utmost esteem, love, and respect; honor." Who in your life have you been neglecting to honor? What are some ways this week you could show them how much you love and respect them?

How has culture tried to shift the way we think about sex and adoration? How can a sexual relationship still leave you feeling void and lonely? How have you experienced this personally?

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2) **RESPONDS TO HER DESIRE FOR COMPANIONSHIP. Read v. 34.**

Leah desired for Jacob to feel an attachment to her, an unbreakable bond. Ephesians 5:31 reiterates the teaching from Genesis that when a man leaves his father and mother and is united with his wife, the two become one flesh. What kind of companionship do you desire in your spouse?

What's the difference between a marriage in which the woman is a tool being used and a marriage in which the wife is a person being prized? Where does your marriage stand?

How could you genuinely express an interest in someone you love by being their companion? How will you also love yourself when you love your spouse?

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3) **VALUES HER HUNGER FOR HOPE. Read v. 35.**

How did the focus of Leah's hope shift over time? Have you placed your hope in the wrong places before?

How do you get into trouble by placing your hope in people? How can you pray this week to change the focus of your hope and that of your spouse? What benefits do you *hope* to see?

What are some practical ways we can share the hope of Jesus in our homes this week?

**Apply It:**

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What could you do this week that would help your mate feel completely adored? What can you do to cultivate a companionship with your loved ones? What situations and relationships have you been hoping in yourself to fix instead of allowing God to be the focus?

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**Pray:**

Take time as a group to thank God for your spouse or future spouse. Ask him to show you how to mend relationships that have been broken by honoring, loving, and adoring those around you. Pray that He would be your hope in all things and that hope would permeate every aspect of your life.

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**Coming up at VillageChurch:**

**July 23-25:** VBS 9a-12p

**Aug. 12:** VGroup Leader Meeting 11am in the Student Center