

Do You Have Any Idea?

CHARACTERS: Two women (sisters)

PROPS: None

COSTUMES: Biblical

SETTING: Bare stage

Based on Genesis 29-31. Monologues by Leah and Rachel, Jacob's wives. The power of the presentation is linked to the emotional roller coaster experienced by the two women and communicated to the audience, the hopes dashed, time after time, but with the tiniest glimmer of hope at the end.

LEAH:

Do you have any idea what it's like to never measure up? To try your best but always fall short? To live in your sister's shadow your entire life?

I do.

All the while growing up I was second best to my younger sister Rachel. She was the beautiful one. She was the beloved one. She was the one Jacob asked to marry and gladly worked for seven long years to have her. And for seven long years I was unloved, unwanted, (*Agonized Sniffle*) unchosen by anyone. (*Crying*)

My father despaired of ever being rid of me, so he devised a plan, a plan to trick Jacob into marrying me so he could be rid of me, his daughter, the one who never quite measured up. (*wipes away tears*)

When God saw that I was not loved, he opened my womb. (*hopeful*) I gave birth to a son and named him Reuben, thinking, Surely my husband will love me now. (*hopes dashed*) But he did not.

I conceived again, and gave birth to Simeon. (*hopeful*) I thought "the LORD heard that I am not loved, so he gave me this one too." (*happy*) And after Levi was born I thought, "Now at last my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons."

(*hopes dashed*) But he did not. Not after four. Not after five. (*Crying*) After my sixth, Zebulun was born I thought, "God has presented me with a precious gift. (*slightly hopeful*) This time my husband will treat me with honor, because I have borne him six sons."

But he did not. (*Through tears*) I gave him a daughter. (*with heart wrenching desperation*) I gave him everything I could but it still wasn't enough.

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Do you know what it is like to never measure up?

RACHEL:

Do you know what it's like to never have anything of your own? Do you know what it is like to have to share everything, even the most intimate experiences with someone else? To live in your sister's shadow your entire life?

I do.

All the while growing up I looked forward to having a home of my own. My own family. Growing up with brothers and sisters I expected to share space, possessions, my parents. (*Hopefully expectant*) But I looked forward to someday finally having something and someone of my own.

(*Flat*) But it never happened. (*Fondly*) The man I loved and who loved me, the man who had chosen me as his bride, (*painfully*) was tricked into marrying my sister Leah. And if that wasn't bad enough, it was my own father who did it to us. (*balls her fists up next to her head*)

So I had no choice but to share my home and even my husband Jacob with her. (*with hope*) But at least I would have my own children, sons and daughters I could call my own. (*Flat*) Or so I thought. Instead, my womb was closed.

So I gave Jacob my servant Bilhah as a wife, thinking it would be better to have shared children than none at all.

(*with a bit of joy*) Dan was born, then another son! (*smiling a bit*) I felt like I had had a great struggle with my sister, and I had finally won, so I named him Naphtali. (*upset*) But then my sister Leah gave Jacob her servant, Zilpah. (*frustrated*) Yet another woman to share Jacob with.

Do you know what it is like to never have anything of your own? I do.

Yet... maybe...(*placing her hands on over her womb, with a tiny bit of hope*). Maybe I am finally pregnant. Maybe I will finally have something of my own.

Try these interactive games

Mothers and their Children

<http://www.quia.com/jq/1483688.html>

Sons of Jacob

<http://www.quia.com/jq/1432632.html>