Genesis: God and the Originals

FOUR WOMEN AND TWO TRICKSTERS

The Trickster Gets Tricked (29:14b-30)

Vv. 14b-20

- I. Jacob and Laban strike a deal on employment. What are the terms? How is this appropriate and inappropriate?
- 2. What do we learn about Leah and Rachel's position, physical beauty, and/or personality?
- 3. Why does Laban agree to the deal according to verse 19? And how does Jacob feel about the deal according to verse 20?

Vv. 21-30

- 4. How is Jacob's demand in v. 21 oddly unloving? What is missing that might be considered a "loophole" later on?
- 5. How is Jacob tricked, "deceived," in vv. 22-23?

BONUS: How does someone not know who they are having sex with on their wedding night!?

- 6. Why are Jacob's words in v. 25 so ironic?
- 7. What is Laban's excuse for his deception and how might there be some truth in it but still a problematic response?
- 8. How is v. 30 the beginning of a domino effect that will make its way through the rest of Genesis?

BONUS TIME: Who's voices are missing in this narrative so far (v. 23, 24, 28, 29)? What does that leave out of the narrative?

Competition for Kids and Love (29:31-30:24)

Vv. 31-35

9. Why is Leah able to have children and how many does she have?

10. How is the name of her fourth child distinctive from the other three?

Vv. I-13

- II. What is Rachel's reaction to Leah's fertility in v. I (how interesting that these are the first words of a woman in this story!)? And how does Jacob blame God in v. 2?
- 12. Who is now brought into the competition between Rachel and Leah, and what happens?

Vv. 14-24

- 13. What does Rachel think will get her pregnant in vv. 14-15, so what she do?
- 14. What is ironic about what Leah says to Jacob in v. 16?
- 15. Rachel finally has a son. How will he be "the chosen one"?

Son	Mother

Building Wealth Through Trickery? (30:25-43)

- 16. What does Jacob want to do after Joseph is born, and what plans does Laban have?
- 17. How does Jacob build wealth for his family? Is this trickery or something else?