

Growth Group Discussion Guide

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▪ **Read Gen 29:31-34. The heart of a woman needs love. However, the great cover-up is that countless women like Leah have settled for substitutes for love; and their hearts are deeply saddened.** Even after the wedding and children, how do you think Leah knew she was not loved? How does it feel to love someone who does not love you back? Identify those clues, which tell you that you are loved in a relationship. In her desperation, Leah tried to force love. How do women try to force love today? Leah may have had no choice, but modern women do. Why do you think women are still settling for loveless relationships? What can all women learn from Leah's response after the birth of her fourth son? Explain why it is important to love God first and foremost.

▪ **Read I Samuel 1:1-20. To achieve their goals, some women have turned on the charm, used deception and other means; but Hannah chose a method that has God's stamp of approval.** Discuss how you are inspired by Hannah's story. Why is it important that what we want lines up with God's will. Share a time when you poured out your heart to God for something you desired and God responded positively. Why is Hannah's method of getting what she wanted superior to deception or turning on the charm?

▪ **Read Ex 1:22-2:1-10. A woman listens with her heart and hears unspoken needs, hurts, fears, etc. Moses' mother was such a woman. She listened with her heart and responded accordingly.** Explain the difference between listening with your heart and just with your ears. Discuss why listening with the heart is so important. Where do you think Moses' mother got the courage to defy the king? Share a time when you listened to your heart, acted on what you heard, and experienced encouraging results.

▪ **Review I Samuel 1:1-20. The heart of a woman is open. This is possibly one of her greatest strengths; for through her open heart she releases fear, bitterness, hurt, sorrow, disappointment, and secrets, which would otherwise weigh her down.** How did openly discussing the source of her pain with the priest help to bring Hannah relief? How open are you to discussing personal issues with a confidante? Explain whether such discussions are helpful to you.

▪ **Read Gen 3:16B. A woman desires in her heart to 'call the shots'. This is a consequence of Adam and Eve's fall, and is often the root cause of failed relationships.** Why is this consequence so devastating (Ref. Eph 5:23-24)? Why has it become so natural for modern women to "call the shots"? What are some societal ill you can connect to this disorder? What advice would you give to a woman who has an issue in this area?

▪ **Read Gen. 30:1-3. The heart of a woman longs to nurture. Nurturing is a slice of life that helps to make a woman feel whole. It is so ingrained in her that it is as natural as breathing.** Rachael's desire for a child was not just jealousy of Leah; Rachael wanted and needed to nurture. How does Rachael express her desperation? Though many women today opt not to have children, in what other ways do they express their desire to nurture? What could Rachael have learned from Leah after Judah's birth? What can all of us learn from Leah's proclamation?

▪ **Taking It Home: How Will I Apply It?** Pray this simple prayer and mean it in your heart: Father, help me to rest in you so much so that I will find total fulfillment in you and your plan for my life. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

VICTORIOUS SECRETS SERIES

"The Heart of a Woman"

She is designed to represent God. (Gen 1:27)

- She is created in **God's image**.
- She is created to be **a woman**.
- She is created with **value** and **importance** to God's plan.

She is designed to respect a man. (Gen 2:18)

- Her **creation** was **connected** to a relationship with a man.
- She was designed to be a **helper** but she will struggle with being a **controller**. (Gen 3:16)
- Her relationship with a man is best expressed through **submission** to one man. (Eph 5:22-24)

She is designed to raise godly children. (Gen 1:28)

- Her greatest work is inside the home in **shaping her children**.
- The impact of **feminism** has replaced motherhood with **career success**.