

A Study Guide
THE BOOK OF GOD

Book by Walter Wangerin, Jr.

Study Guide by Melanie Heuser Hill

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Part I ~ The Ancestors

(Teacher's Guide)

1. Why do you think Wangerin starts with Abraham & Sarah?
2. In recent years there has been an effort in OT scholarship to be politically correct and call the earliest of God's people "ancestors" instead of "patriarchs". What do you think about Wangerin's storytelling ~ is he being politically correct, or is he filling in some details that he thinks are missing?
3. What impressions do you have of Abraham and Sarah?
4. Notice the parallels between Rebekah and Isaac's story and Abraham and Sarah's.
5. Who is your favorite character at this point?
6. What do you think of this group of God's people? A bunch of conivers?
7. *Listen to "Leah Speaks" & The Jacob & Laban Scene before (Pg. 55 & Tape 1-B)*

THE FAMILY TREE...

Hagar	ABRAHAM	Sarah		
ISHMAEL	ISAAC	Rebekah		
	JACOB	ESAU		
	Rachel	Bilhah	Leah	Zilpah
	Joseph	Dan	Reuben	Gad
	Benjamin	Naphtali	Simeon	Asher
			Levi	
			Judah	
			Zebulun	
			(Dinah)	

Part I ~ The Ancestors

1. Why do you think Wangerin starts with Abraham & Sarah? That's not where Genesis begins....

2. What impressions do you have of Abraham and Sarah?

3. In recent years there has been an effort in Old Testament scholarship to be more gender inclusive/historically correct(?) and call the earliest of God's people *ancestors* instead of *patriarchs*. It could be said that Wangerin highlights the role of the women (Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, Leah etc.) more than the Biblical passages do. What do you think about Wangerin's storytelling ~ is he merely being "politically correct", or is he filling in some details that he thinks are lacking in the Biblical accounts?

4. What is the promise (covenant) that is made to Abraham? (Genesis 12: 3 & 17:4~8)

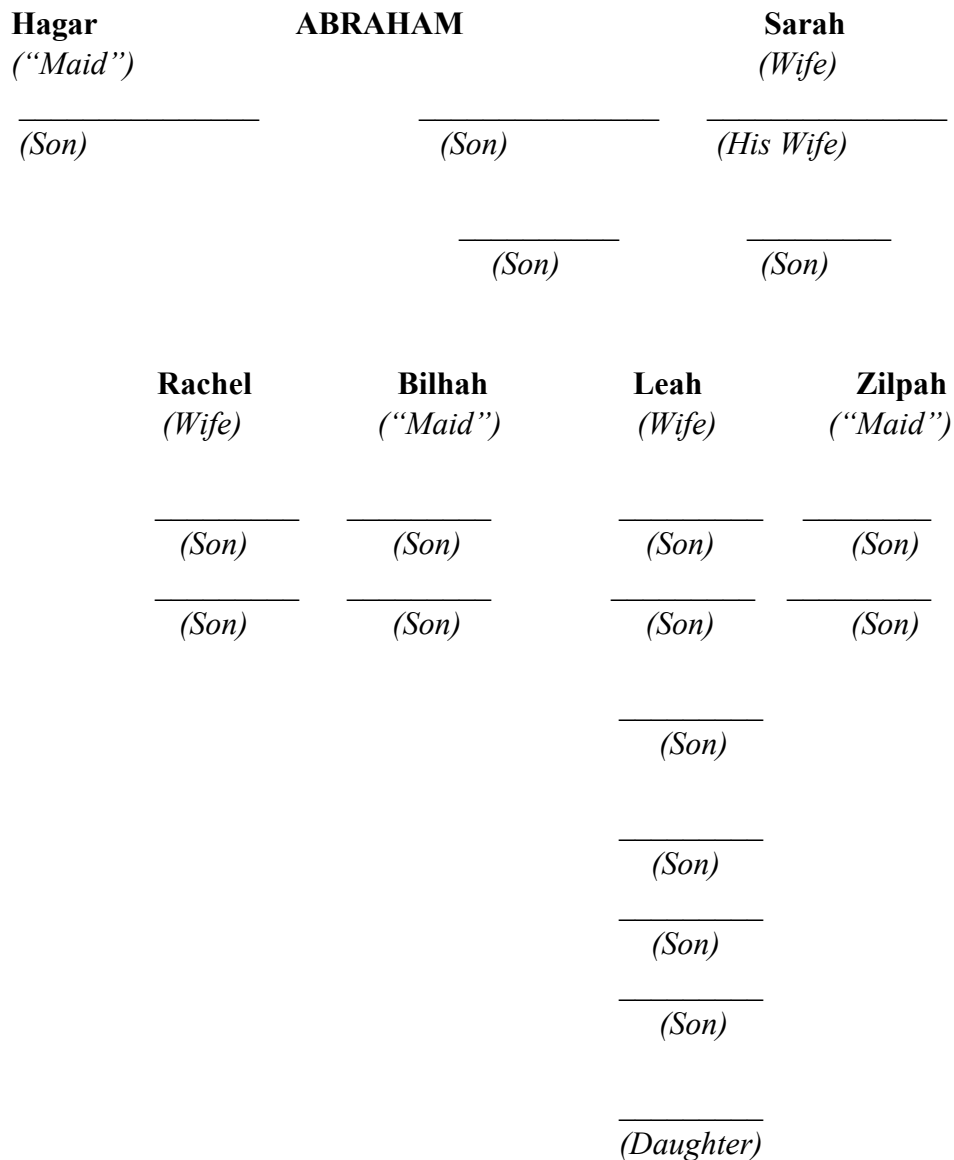
5. What parallels do you see between Rebekah and Isaac's story and Abraham and Sarah's? How about Jacob and his wives?

6. Who is your favorite character at this point? Why?

7. What do you think of this group of God's people?

8. See if you can fill in the Family Tree....

THE FAMILY TREE...



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The Rev. Melanie Heuser Hill is a Lutheran pastor currently on leave from call to stay home with her children and is enjoying her days knitting, "playing puzzles and games", reading in Spanish, which she does not understand, baking extremely healthy and yummy bread, writing storytelling curriculum, dancing in the kitchen, dreaming of Advent, and spending hours on her new porch even when it is too cold to be out there. She is considering listening to "The Book of God" and "Paul" for the umpteenth time (while knitting this time, having already done it nursing a baby) because her library seems not to carry any decent books-on-tape for adults and the third book of Harry Potter is STILL checked out.