

A 7x4 grid of the word "WEIRD" in a stylized, blocky font. The letters are composed of multiple parallel lines in blue and green. The "W" is on the far left of each row, "E" is the second letter, "I" is the third, "R" is the fourth, and "D" is the fifth and final letter of each word.

STRANGE BUT TRUE STORIES IN THE BIBLE

**TOO MUCH OF A
GOOD THING**

GENESIS 29:31 - 30:7

The Scriptures:

Lay out God's ideal

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Show our attempts to do the ideal differently

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Record the fallout

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh.

Genesis 2:24 CSB

When Jesus had finished saying these things, he departed from Galilee and went to the region of Judea across the Jordan. Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. Some Pharisees approached him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife on any grounds?” “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that he who created them in the beginning **made them male and female**, and he also said, ‘**For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh**? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Matthew 19:1-6 CSB

“He must not acquire many wives for himself so that his heart won’t go astray. He must not acquire very large amounts of silver and gold for himself.”

Deuteronomy 17:17 CSB

Marriage is between one man and one woman united together by God for life.

When Rachel saw that she was not bearing Jacob any children, she envied her sister. “Give me sons, or I will die!” she said to Jacob. Jacob became angry with Rachel and said, “Am I in the place of God? He has withheld offspring from you!”

Genesis 30:1-2 CSB

Reuben went out during the wheat harvest and found some mandrakes in the field. When he brought them to his mother Leah, Rachel asked, “Please give me some of your son’s mandrakes.” But Leah replied to her, “Isn’t it enough that you have taken my husband? Now you also want to take my son’s mandrakes?” “Well then,” Rachel said, “he can sleep with you tonight in exchange for your son’s mandrakes.” When Jacob came in from the field that evening, Leah went out to meet him and said, “You must come with me, for I have hired you with my son’s mandrakes.” So Jacob slept with her that night.

Genesis 30:14-16 CSB

“Then she said, “Here is my maid Bilhah. Go sleep with her, and she’ll bear children for me so that through her I too can build a family.” So Rachel gave her slave Bilhah to Jacob as a wife, and he slept with her. Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son. Rachel said, “God has vindicated me; yes, he has heard me and given me a son,” so she named him Dan.”

Genesis 30:3-6 CSB

“When Leah saw that she had stopped having children, she took her slave Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife. Leah’s slave Zilpah bore Jacob a son. Then Leah said, “What good fortune!” and she named him Gad.”

Genesis 30:9-11 CSB

God knows what He is doing.

We perpetually fail to live up to God's ideals.

Then God remembered Rachel. He listened to her and opened her womb. She conceived and bore a son, and she said, “God has taken away my disgrace.” She named him Joseph and said, “May the LORD add another son to me.”

Genesis 30:22-24 CSB