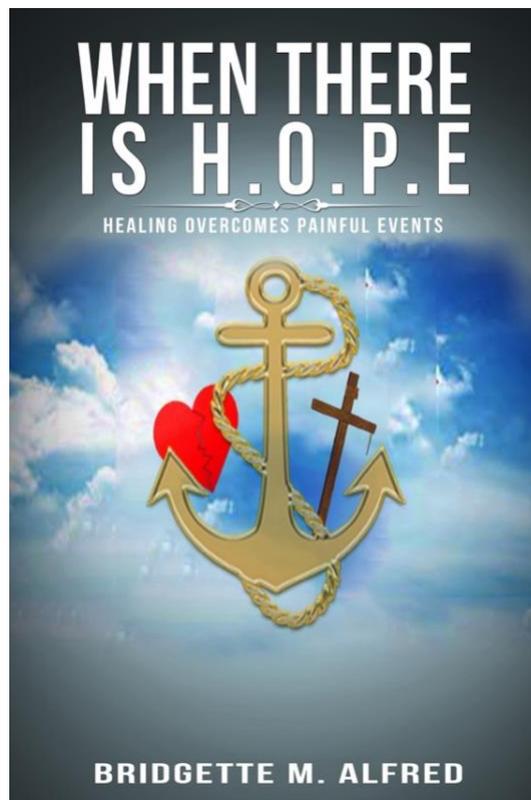


When There Is H.O.P.E. (Healing Overcomes Painful Events)

**BIBLE STUDY GUIDE - Week Three,
Thursday, July 1, 2021**



Lauretta and Leah

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LAURETTA

Lauretta had Hope in her own self that she could change her husband. This excerpt shows some of the Young family dynamics:

Growing up in Washington, D.C., my parents and I lived on top of the grocery store and café that my Uncle Claude and Aunt Lottie owned in a small neighborhood. My father, aunt, and uncle had this agreement that they would open the store and he would close it at night. This arrangement was good for my parents because they constantly argued. Papa did take a break from the store when it was time for me to go to bed so he could say good night.

Where we lived had two bedrooms, a living room, a dining room, and an open kitchen with a door to a deck. My parents had a sitting room with a walk-in closet in their bedroom. We shared a bathroom. It was very modest with used furniture. My mother hated our living arrangements. She constantly pestered my father to buy us a house. He said, "I'm saving up for one." I could tell by her tone that she didn't believe him.

"I am not staying here," my mother proclaimed very loudly.

"But this was the plan!" My father exclaimed.

"It was your plan with no consideration for my feelings!"

Aunt Debra chimed in. "I know how she feels; this house is very intimidating." Aunt Debra suggested that my mother stay with her because a tenant moved when she got married recently.

"I want to stay with Momma!" I chimed in.

Aunt Debra got out of the car to help my father get our bags. "Men do not think like women! Little brother, I knew this would happen, but I had to mind my own business."

"Since when?"

"Don't take your frustrations out on me, Joseph. Did you at any time include Lauretta in planning this trip?"

"What, are you a marriage counselor now?"

"No, I just know how you are. I have dated men like you. You get so domineering and

always have to be in charge and have things done your way. Men never think that women can make decisions without them.”

My father ignored her last comment and got our bags from out of the car. I quickly got out of Aunt Debra’s car. My mother just rolled her eyes at my father as Aunt Debra drove off. I didn’t even say goodbye to my mother.

We were about to catch the streetcar back to the house when I saw my mother in a car with a man that wasn’t my father. I tried to call her but the man was driving too fast. I didn’t know at that time, but it would be the last time I would see my mother for five years.

“Ray,” he said, “It will be just the two of us taking the train today.”

“Why? Where is Momma?”

“Your mother has decided to stay in New Orleans and get a job,” he said.

“What about me?” I asked, feeling very confused. “She doesn’t love me anymore?”

“Ray, I don’t know what to tell you, all I know is that you have experienced a whole lot of grown-up stuff this week. I’m so sorry.”

“Did you tell momma what happened?” I asked.

“Yes. She wanted me to tell you how sorry she was.”

It was a very sad day. Aunt Rebecca, Alfrieda, Georgia, and I were crying because Papa and I were going back home. I told them, “I can write.” My cousins said, “We’ll write back.”

Reflection: Can you think of a time when you knew you should be satisfied but you weren’t? Please describe how you felt.

LEAH

Read Genesis 29:16-30

Reflection: Do you think Laban was justified in replacing Leah with Rachel?

Read Genesis 29:31-35

Reflection: Can you imagine how Leah lived a daily life not ever feeling any love from Jacob?

Read Genesis 30:14-21

Reflection: Do you think Leah finally had enough of Rachel getting all of Jacob's attention and expressed it?

Reflection: Describe how Laretta and Leah have similar lives.
