

Questions to Think About

Consider these questions as you reflect on Genesis 32, especially when it comes to Jacob's encounter when he wrestled with God.

1. What was Jacob afraid of as he prepared to meet Esau?

What fears or worries am I carrying that I need to bring before God?

2. Why do you think Jacob prayed to God before facing Esau?

Do I turn to prayer first when I face difficult situations?

3. Jacob wrestled with God throughout the night.

What might this struggle teach me about perseverance in prayer and faith?

4. Jacob asked for a blessing.

What blessings am I seeking from God, and are they aligned with His will?

5. God changed Jacob's name to Israel.

How did Jacob's encounter with God change his identity?

How has my relationship with God changed the way I see myself?

6. Jacob had spent much of his life relying on his own ability and schemes.

Where am I tempted to rely on myself instead of trusting God?

7. Jacob finally moved toward Esau despite his fear.

What difficult situation might God be asking me to face rather than avoid?

8. What does Genesis 32 teach me about God's presence in the midst of fear and uncertainty?

A central thought for reflection:

Jacob faced the night afraid of what lay ahead, but he left the encounter changed by God. Sometimes the struggle we most want to escape from is the very place where God wants to transform us.



GRAND LAKES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Connecting & Transforming Lives in Christ

*World Wide Communion
October 4, 2026*

We are so glad you are here to worship God with us!
During the time of musical prelude, consider offering a silent
prayer for our service of worship this morning.



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Order of Worship

Musical Prelude

Bev Wanner

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Tyler Henderson

***Hymn** *"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"* #169 (vs 1, 2, & 5)

*Call to Worship

Leader: We gather together to praise our Mighty God!

People: With joy we celebrate and give thanks for God's faithfulness.

Leader: We gather together to sing to our Glorious God!

People: With joy we celebrate the wonders of our faithful King.

Leader: We gather together to worship and honor God!

People: With joy we celebrate God's amazing grace in Jesus Christ!

Unison: Let us lift our voices in grateful praise! Amen.

***Hymn** *"Praise Him! Praise Him!"* #12 (vs 1, 2, & 3)
(During the hymn, all kids may go to Children's Worship in Faith Express)

Prayer of Praise and Confession

Eternal God and Redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from You. We have not followed Your commands. We have lived for ourselves, apart from You. We have turned from our neighbors and refused to recognize the needs of others. We have ignored the pain of the world, and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. In Your great mercy, forgive our sins and free us from our misguided ways, that we may choose to obey Your will for us to the glory of Your Kingdom through Jesus Christ our Savior. Hear now our personal prayers of confession...

(Time is given for a silent personal confession.)

Assurance of Forgiveness

***"This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice
and be glad in it!" (Psalm 118:24)***

*Gloria Patri

Sermon Text Genesis 32:22-32 (NIV)

(Genesis 32 tells the story of Jacob preparing to return home and face his brother Esau, whom he had deceived years earlier. Fearing that Esau might attack him, Jacob prays to God for protection and sends gifts ahead to seek peace with his brother. That night, Jacob encounters God and wrestles with Him until daybreak. Jacob refuses to let go until he receives a blessing. The man changes Jacob's name to Israel, saying that he has struggled with God and with people and has prevailed. Jacob leaves the encounter with a permanent limp, but also with a new identity and a deeper awareness of God's presence.)

Sermon *"Stressed and Blessed"* Rev. Dr. Rick Myers

***Hymn** *"I Surrender All"* #596 (vs 1, 2 & 4)

A Time for Prayer

Our Thankfulness for God's Grace

*Doxology

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

***Hymn** *The Lord's Prayer* #631

*Benediction

*Congregational Response

**Please rise in body and/or spirit*