

**Jacob, Esau, and a Wrestling Match (Genesis 32)
For the week of November 7, 2021**

Read Genesis 32:1-2

Observation

What is happening and where is Jacob going?

Why are these two verses here after Jacob leaves Laban?

Interpretation

Why is God making His presence known (also read Genesis 28:10-17)?

Application

In fearful, uncomfortable situations, how has God made His presence known to you?

Read Genesis 32:3-21

Observation

In verses 3-8, what is Jacob doing? What is his state of mind (v 7)? How does he handle the situation?

In verses 9-12 is the first recorded prayer of Jacob. What is the purpose of his prayer?

In verses 13-21, describe what is happening. What are these verses saying about the wealth of Jacob?

Interpretation

Is there a change in Jacob's behavior? Is he handling situations as he did in the past? Explain.

What is your reaction to the messengers' report of Esau?

How do you interpret Jacob's prayer?

What is the purpose of the "droves" of gifts?

How do you interpret Jacob referring to himself as servant in verse 20?

Application

How do you handle fear?

When you pray during fearful times, do you remind God of what He should be doing and promised to do or not? Explain.

Read the following Scriptures and state what they say about fear.

Psalms 56:3-4

Isaiah 41:9-10

Romans 8:15-17

Philippians 4:4-9

2 Timothy 1:7

Read Genesis 32:22-32

Note: Many commentators have discussed who the mystery man is. Some say that it is God in human form (theophany), some say that it is the pre-incarnate Christ, while others say that it is an angel (Hosea 12:3-4). Our focus is not so much on the identity of the "man" but agreeing that this "man" is of God.

Interpretation

Describe what is happening.

Observation

How does this encounter sum up Jacob's relationship with God?

What is the outcome of the conflict?

Application

Are there issues that you have wrestled or are wrestling with God about?

How has or is God working through the wrestling? Discuss in your group.