

**bc****BIBLICAL
CHARACTERS****Jacob**

Pastor Jeremy McGarity

From Liar to Leader

Genesis 31-32

1 The process often begins with Relational

C O N F L I C T

Jacob heard that Laban's sons were saying, "Jacob has taken everything our father owned and has gained all this wealth from what belonged to our father." And Jacob noticed that Laban's attitude toward him was not what it had been.

GENESIS 31:1-2 (NIV)

...the messengers returned to Jacob and reported, "We met your brother, Esau, and he is already on his way to meet you—with an army of 400 men!" Jacob was terrified at the news.

GENESIS 32:6-7a (NLT)

Then Jacob prayed, "O God... O Lord... I am not worthy of all the unfailing love and faithfulness you have shown to me... please, rescue me... I am afraid..."

GENESIS 32:9-11 (NLT)

God blesses those who... realize their need for him.

MATTHEW 5:3 (NLT)

2 Next comes a **C R I S I S**

After taking [his family] to the other side he sent over all of his possessions. This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until dawn began to break. When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob's hip and wrenched it out of its socket.

GENESIS 32:23-25 (NLT)

Even in the womb, Jacob struggled with his brother; when he became a man, he even fought with God.

HOSEA 12:3 (NLT)

3 Then, my **C O M M I T M E N T** is tested

Then the man said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking!"
But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

GENESIS 32:26 (NLT)

So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

GALATIANS 6:9 (NLT)

4 I cannot grow to the next level unless I **C O N F E S S**

The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered.

GENESIS 32:27 (NIV)

5 Ultimately, If I cooperate with God, I am **C H A N G E D**

*"Your name will no longer be Jacob," the man told him.
"From now on you will be called Israel..." Then he blessed Jacob there.*

GENESIS 32:28-29 (NLT)

And you will be given a new name by the LORD's own mouth.

ISAIAH 62:2b (NLT)

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 (NLT)

The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip.

GENESIS 32:31 (NIV)

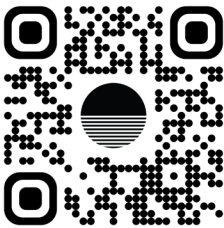


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SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1 Share one thing that stood out to you in this week's sermon and why.
- 2 Jacob ends up in a wrestling match with God. Sometimes it can feel like we are wrestling with our faith. What are some areas in your own life where you are wrestling with God on?
- 3 How does Jacob's history of lying, cheating, and eventually wrestling with God help us think about how we relate to God?
- 4 Read Genesis 32:36. In your own words, how would you describe Joshua's character in this passage? How would you apply this to our world today?
- 5 Pastor Jeremy spoke and taught us what happened to Joshua when he chose to cooperate with the Lord. What do you think your life would look like if you chose to cooperate with Lord in the areas you still want to control?
- 6 How can we be praying for you this week?



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Upcoming Events

- 05.05 | Middle School Color Wars Begins
- 05.06 | Small Group Leadership Breakfast
- 05.14 | Mother's Day
- 05.15 | Padres & Pastors
- 05.20 | Random Acts of Kindness
- 05.21 | Classic Praise
- 05.28 | Child Dedications