

An illustration depicting the biblical story of Jacob wrestling with God. Two figures are shown in a physical struggle on a dark, rocky terrain under a dark, starry night sky. The figure on the left, representing God, is depicted with a dark, muscular physique and a purple sash. The figure on the right, representing Jacob, is shown in a reddish-brown tunic, appearing to be in a state of intense effort or pain. They are locked in a wrestling embrace, with their hands clasped. The background features dark, silhouetted trees and a night sky with a few stars. The overall style is reminiscent of a woodcut or a stylized painting.

The Beginning of God's Story

Jacob Wrestles With God

Hear It: Genesis 31-32

After many years of working for Laban, Jacob took his wives and all 12 of his children and left to go back home. On the way, he discovered that Esau was coming to meet him and his family with an army of soldiers. This made Jacob scared. The night before they were to meet Esau and his army, Jacob sent his wives and children ahead of him. He stayed behind. Suddenly, a man appeared to Jacob, and they began to wrestle. They wrestled for a long time. During their wrestling, Jacob's hip was put out of joint, and it gave Jacob a permanent limp. Finally, Jacob pinned the man down and demanded that the man bless him. The man told Jacob that his name would now be Israel, which means "Someone who struggles with God." Jacob realized that this was not just a man he was wrestling with but God himself! Jacob gave thanks, because he saw God face-to-face but had not died because of it! When he met Esau, Esau made peace with Jacob and they left brothers, not enemies.



Jacob Wrestles God

- Jacob left Laban's house to go home, but Esau and his army got in his way.
- Because he was afraid, he sent his family ahead of him.
- A man appeared and they wrestled.
- It turned out that the man was God!
- When Jacob pinned God, he demanded a blessing. God changed his name to "Israel", which means "someone who struggles with God".
- After this, Jacob and Esau made peace.

**BEFORE THE MOUNTAINS WERE BORN OR
YOU BROUGHT FORTH THE WHOLE WORLD,
FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING
YOU ARE GOD.**

PSALM 90:2



Reflection Questions

- Why was Jacob afraid of going home?
Esau brought an army to meet him.
- Who was the man that Jacob wrestled with?
God.
- What did God change Jacob's name to?
Israel.
- What does Israel mean?
It means "someone who struggles with God."

Challenge Question: How will you be close to God this week?