



Day 1 — Read Genesis 32

Please answer the following questions in reference to this scripture passage.

- o What are the circumstances surrounding Jacob?
- o How does he respond to situations? What choices does he make?
- o What stands out about Jacob's character?
- o Where does God show up?
- o What questions do you have?

You may find an overview of Jacob's life at the Welcome Center or online at www.jacobswellect.org.

Day 2 — Read Genesis 32:22-24

Jacob has been gone from his childhood home for twenty years. A lot happened in that time, both good and bad. He's about to face a reunion with someone he deeply betrayed, someone who had threatened his life the last time they were together, and yet someone he loved. Based on verses 22-23, what do you think is going through Jacob's mind and heart at this time? What is he telling his family about this late night move in the dark? What do you think their reactions would have been?

And then a man shows up. We don't know if anything was said initially. It's the middle of the night, and he begins wrestling with Jacob. Any of us in that circumstance would fight for our lives. What is going through his mind for all this time? Is this someone sent by Esau to kill him? Is this some stranger wandering through? What does he have against me?

As strange as this situation seems to be, many of us have been in circumstances where we're fighting for our life, our marriage, our children, our sobriety, our sanity. We hit a wall, or we hit rock bottom, where we are left wrestling and struggling for our lives. Do you have a story like this? Have you shared your story with anyone? Do you need to?

Day 3 — Read Genesis 32:25-26

Here's a picture of a God who comes to us during our greatest fears, struggles with us, touches us, and blesses us. Sometimes in life, like Jacob, we're wounded by God. It's painful and it doesn't often make sense to us. But if we believe that God is good and always has our best interest in mind, we can trust that the wound has a purpose. In our wrestling, we can find blessing if we just hold on to Him. Jesus said in Matthew 7:7-8, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened."

Reflect on your own story. Have you been wounded? Do you trust God? Are you still wrestling with Him? Do you hold on to Him and continue to ask for blessing?

Day 4 — Read Genesis 32:27-29

At what point during Jacob's tussle did he come to the understanding this man wasn't a threat? When did he realize who he was with? What's going through Jacob's mind during all of this?

Wrestling with God can bring about transformation. We can come to a new phase of relationship with Him in which He gives us a new name, a name that reflects who we are becoming. In Revelation 2:17 it states that we will receive a new name, a transformed name. Have you reached a transformation point in your relationship with God? Who did you use to be? And who are you becoming? How has God gifted you?

Day 5 — Read Genesis 32:30-32

Jacob saw God face to face. What an experience! Just as he's about to confront his past, God shows up. Walking with a limp is a small price to pay for seeing God in such a personal way. The encounter gives him courage to meet his brother with humility and love.

What has your experience with God been like?

- o Is it something you long for but haven't found yet? Take courage, He's willing to wrestle with you. Ask and seek and keep knocking. He wants you to find Him. Pray for His presence in your life.
- o Have you walked with God for years, even with a limp, and enjoyed His blessings? Spend some time thanking Him for His companionship.
- o Perhaps you're currently wrestling with God, maybe ready to give up, and frightened of the outcome. Keep going. Keep praying. Take courage. Seek His blessing. Be tenacious like Jacob.