

Teacher Training
Unit 3 Session 2 Jacob Fled from Canaan (Genesis 28; 32)
April 6, 2025

In today's passage, God continued His faithfulness to Abraham by extending kindness to Jacob amidst a time of great turmoil. God promised to bless Jacob, be with him, watch over him, and never leave him until His faithful promises had been fulfilled. Jacob found himself at a crossroads, seemingly alone, and was tasked with finding a wife in accordance with God's plan to bless their family.

What can we learn from Jacob's time of trial and his wrestling with God? How can this help us when we are suffering or wrestling with God ourselves?

After receiving his father's blessing, Jacob was instructed by his mother and father to flee Esau's wrath and find a wife. While on the run, God visited Jacob in a dream by which He confirmed the promises He had made to Abraham. Even in Jacob's sinfulness, God's faithful lovingkindness was shown to him as God declared that His covenantal promises would continue through Jacob's family. Then, Jacob made a vow, just as God had made one to him: "If God remains with me, watches over me, provides for me, and returns me safely as He says He will, then He will be my God."

Later in chapter 32, we see the next phase of Jacob's journey with God, as he wrestled with Him unknowingly. Jacob said to the man, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." The man—whom we know to be God—changed Jacob's name from that of a deceiver to *Israel*, meaning "He struggled with God." Despite Jacob's struggles with God, he prevailed and was blessed by Him. In the end, Jacob realized that God spared his life in this encounter. By grace, he was granted a new name and identity and was able to return home.

Today, we come to a similar crossroads as we wrestle with the role Jesus deserves in our lives as Savior and Lord. Those who surrender to Him by faith can, like Israel, experience new life in He who redeems and restores sinners, bringing them into His family forever. No longer are we bound by our old selves but given a new identity in Jesus.

Ask God to reveal to the boys and girls in your group the reality of the new life He offers in Jesus. Though we may not always understand His ways, God gives us grace as we come to surrender to His will for our lives. May His truth become clear in their hearts and minds as you teach them about His love.

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