

Family Worship Guide – Chronological Week # 11
(November 9-15)
Genesis 32-35

READ

Day 1

- ❖ **Genesis 32:22-32**
- ❖ All his life Jacob had been a deceiver. It was in his nature. But something happens to change his nature: he wrestles with God! Jacob held on to the end. It wasn't that he was stronger than God; it was that he was determined to stay with God. Even when daybreak came and Jacob needed to be about the business of meeting with his brother, he held on for a blessing. And what a blessing! To have the name "deceiver" replaced with one of God's choosing. The change in Jacob/Israel is evident in the name he chose for the place of the struggle: it showed no pride in having gone the distance with God, but humility at having seen God face to face and having had his life spared.
- ❖ **The Bottom Line:** God's blessing of His Presence is worth more than any knowledge or material possession.
- ❖ **Questions:** Why do you think the wrestler put Jacob's hip out of socket? Why would Jacob want to know the other's name?

Day 2

- ❖ **Genesis 33**
- ❖ The Lord had told Jacob to return to his family, but he had no idea what kind of welcome he would receive. He hadn't seen his brother Esau for 20 years: not since tricking their father Isaac into giving him the blessing his father intended for Esau. Jacob approached his brother like a servant, bowing and offering gifts. But Esau came as a brother with a hug, a kiss, and tears. In verse 10, Jacob compared the greeting he got from Esau to his encounter with God in 32:30. He was grateful to have survived! The present/blessing given to Esau by the returning Jacob was a way of giving back the blessing he had stolen all those years ago.
- ❖ **The Bottom Line:** Sometimes the blessing God has in store for us really is more than we can ask or imagine!
- ❖ **Questions:** What might have changed Esau's mind about wanting to kill his brother? Do you think Jacob had learned anything during his 20 year exile?

Day 3

- ❖ **Genesis 34**
- ❖ This chapter is a sad example of what happens when we leave God out of our plans. He is not mentioned at all in this episode. *(This chapter may be more graphic than you consider appropriate for your children. Read for yourself before jumping in with little ones.)*
In settling so close to a pagan city (Gen 34:18), Jacob repeated a mistake made a generation earlier by his kinsman Lot. If Jacob had fulfilled his earlier vow to return to Bethel, his

daughter might never have caught the eye of Shechem and his sons would not have become murderers. Jacob didn't approve of the actions taken by his sons, but only because of the negative effect on his own reputation with his neighbors. Simeon and Levi obviously learned deceit from their father. The line of the promised Savior did not come through either of them.

- ❖ **The Bottom Line:** When we follow God, we must follow Him all the way.
- ❖ **Questions:** Why would it not have been a good idea for Jacob's family to intermarry with the Canaanites?

Day 4

- ❖ **Genesis 35**
- ❖ After the disaster at Shechem, God instructs Jacob to take his family back to Bethel, where Jacob's relationship with God started. Jacob finally realizes that El-Bethel, the God of Bethel, is the one true God, and there is no other. And that's when God reminds Jacob of his new identity, not as a Heel, but as a God-Wrestler. As the father, the leader of his family, Jacob leads them to his God. While they were still traveling, he lost his beloved Rachel as she gave him his 12th son. I can't imagine losing my spouse, but to go through that loss without the comfort of the Heavenly Father would be unbearable. In this chapter we learn why Jacob's firstborn son wasn't in the line of the Promised Savior. Jacob's return also meant that Esau didn't have to bury his father alone. The twins were able to work together to lay their father to rest.
- ❖ **The Bottom Line:** God is always there for us, waiting for us to recognize His call on our lives.
- ❖ **Questions:** Why was Bethel so important to Jacob? Why was it important to leave the alien gods behind?

Day 5

- ❖ **Psalms 8**
- ❖ This Psalm has so many lines that we are familiar with: "What is man that You are mindful of him?" We see just how small and frail mankind is compared to our amazing God, and yet we see how much He loves us and expects from us compared to the rest of creation.
- ❖ **The Bottom Line:** God's name is excellent in all the earth!
- ❖ **Questions:** I can't think of any questions from this Psalm, only praise and wonder at Who God is.

PRAY

- ❖ Thank your Heavenly Father for all that He has done for you and your family. Ask Him to show you His immense Glory and how to follow Him more closely.

MEMORIZE

- ❖ "O Lord, our Lord,
How excellent is Your name in all the earth,
Who have set Your glory above the heavens!" -Psalm 8:1