

Desperate Prayers: The Practice of Prevailing Prayer

Genesis 32:22-32

2026.01.25

Icebreaker: Share a high/low from the past couple of weeks

STUDY GUIDE

Read Genesis 32:3-32

Each person share about one of the following questions:

- What did you like about this passage?
- What didn't you like or made you uncomfortable about this passage?
- What didn't you understand about this passage?
- What does this passage teach us about Jesus?

This series has been leading us into a different kind of prayer: prayer that clings to God in desperation until he responds.

- What has your prayer life felt like recently—busy, dry, consistent, desperate...?
- Which of these misunderstandings about prayer do you most easily slip into? "Name it and claim it", Trying to impress God, Hoping God hears you, Trying to force God to act, others... Why do you think that is?

In Genesis 32 we see that Jacob had plans, strategies, and backup plans—but still ended up desperate and fearful about meeting his brother. In the message, Aaron mentioned that desperate prayers often begin when our strategies end.

- Where do you see yourself relying more on planning than praying?
- The turning point comes when Jacob says, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." What does that level of persistence feel like emotionally? What fears might keep someone from praying like that?

In the message, Aaron shared a story of "unanswered" prayer, that turned into a transformational process.

- Have you ever "wrestled" with God and what was the outcome?
- What "unanswered" prayers have you experienced? What have you seen in the process of going to God?
- What might God be teaching you about this? Where might God be asking you to step back into persistent prayer for this?

Jacob faced an insurmountable obstacle – his brother's anger and a superior armed force coming to meet him..

- What is something in your life right now that feels Esau-sized-big, threatening, or overwhelming?
- Are you desperate enough about it to wrestle with God rather than just mention it in prayer?
- The message challenged us with a 24-hour prayer event on Feb 7-8: If God invited you to cling to Him all night over one thing, what would that be?

Message Notes

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Prayers / Praises

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