

1. Wrestling with the LORD

- a) What circumstances precipitated Jacob's nighttime encounter with the LORD? Genesis 32:1-8
- b) What impresses you about Jacob's earnest cry to the LORD at Mahanaim? Genesis 32:9-12
- c) Was the sending of numerous gifts to Esau a strategy directed by the LORD or one of Jacob's own devising? (Genesis 32:13-21)
- d) Why did Jacob continue his nighttime struggle even after he realized he was wrestling with the LORD? Genesis 32:24-26 (see also Hosea 12:3-5)
- e) What was the significance of Jacob's new name? Genesis 32:27-30
- f) Should we admire and emulate Jacob's example of wrestling with the LORD or rest in His presence?

2. Healing of a broken relationship

- a) Was Esau's reaction when meeting his twin brother caused by Jacob's carefully implemented strategies or was it a miracle of God's grace? Genesis 33:1-4
- b) Had Jacob, now called Israel, learned to completely trust the LORD in this situation or was he still trying to work things out his own way?
- c) Why is it vitally important that we have a personal encounter with the LORD before trying to find resolution for the personal challenges we face?

3. Challenges in Canaan

- a) Why is the story of the rape of Jacob's daughter Dinah recorded in the Scriptures? Genesis 34:1-2
- b) What is your reaction to the deception and violence of Simeon and Levi? Genesis 34:11-17, 25-29
- c) What can we learn about Jacob's character by his reactions to these tragic events? Genesis 34:30

4. Returning to Bethel

- a) Genesis 35:1 Why is it always appropriate to return to the place where we had a special encounter with the LORD (Genesis 28:11-19), especially when we are facing great challenges in our lives?
- b) What miraculous provision occurred when Jacob decided to fully trust the LORD and discard all the idols his family had been carrying with them? Genesis 35:2-5 (Psalm 34:7)
- c) What additional blessing did Jacob receive from the LORD at Bethel? Genesis 35:9-15
- d) What tragedies occurred as Jacob's family departed from Bethel? Genesis 35:16-19,22
- e) What lessons can we learn from Jacob's journey after he decided to fully depend upon the LORD?
- f) How has the LORD worked miraculously in your life since you decided to fully trust Him?