
I will not let you go

GENESIS 32

Lean In

1. When has someone tried to “buy” their way into your good graces? What did they offer you? Did you take it? Did you show mercy anyway?

Look Down

Read Genesis 32

2. For Jacob, is 20 years away from Esau enough time to heal old wounds? Or does he fear time is on Esau’s side, only adding to his desire for revenge? Why do you think so?
3. What do you think of the way Jacob prepares to meet Esau:
 - a. Jacob is acting out of fear, not faith?
 - b. Jacob is up to his old tricks again?
 - c. Jacob is trusting more in Esau’s mercy than in God’s? Why do you think?
4. What attitudes toward God does Jacob display in:
 - a. His naming the place “Mahanaim” (v.2)
 - b. In this escape plan (vv.7-8)
 - c. In his appeasement strategy (vv.13-21)

Which of these show a true inner change on Jacob’s part?

5. After Jacob receives the ominous report brought back by the servants (32:6), he alternately plans and prays. How does his prayer in 32:9-12 reflect his relationship with God at this point? On what did he base the request?
6. Why do you think Jacob chose to be alone on the eve of Esau’s arrival?
7. What might God be trying to teach Jacob by wrestling with him? Why this method?
8. Who do you think ends up winning? Why? Why is Jacob’s hip damaged?
9. What did Jacob name the place where this occurred? What does this mean? Locate it on a map. In what sense had Jacob seen God’s face?
10. In what sense does this story summarize Jacob’s life?
11. How does the change of Jacob’s name from “he deceives” to “he struggles with God” indicate the development of his character?

Look Out

12. In who’s life have you seen a transformation as a result of them wrestling with God?

Look In

13. How can brokenness can be a key factor in restoring strained relationships?
14. *“When we are in the dark, all unresolved issues will rise to the surface.”* Do you find yourself keeping ‘busy’ in order to avoid some of your unresolved issues? How so?
15. *“God used pain to bring Jacob to the point of surrender.”* What has God used in the past to bring you to a point of surrender?
16. In what way(s) have you experienced God as a blessing in the midst of a dark night?

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17. Israel means “he struggles with God.” What new name might God give you as a result of having wrestled with him? Pray that he will use you as a wounded healer instead of a wounded ‘wounder.’