

Name: _____

Date: _____

JACOB: TWO SIGNIFICANT ENCOUNTERS

“And He said, ‘Let Me go, for the day breaks.’ But he said, ‘I will not let You go unless You bless me!’ ”
(Genesis 32:26)

Objectives

<i>Knowledge of God’s Will</i>	God came to Jacob in times of distress, establishing a covenant and giving him strength. God changed Jacob’s name to Israel, which means prince of God.
<i>Knowledge of God</i>	God provides, comforts, and guides. He is omnipresent.
<i>Good Works</i>	Know God’s presence. Respond in faith by building our altar. Persist in our prayers until we receive God’s blessing.

A. Jacob’s Dream at Bethel

The Significance of God’s Promise

This dream signifies the establishment of the eternal covenant between God and Jacob and his descendants. The descending and ascending angels indicated God’s constant presence. They are God’s ministering spirits, sent by Him to guide, protect, and to keep (Ex 23:20).

Jacob’s Reaction

Jacob’s dream made him realize that he may be able to run away from people, but he could not run from God. This dream was clearly a turning point in Jacob’s life. We can see this in the significance of his vow, which can be broken down into three parts: a plea for God’s providence, Jacob’s personal commitment to God, and his promise towards God.

B. Jacob Wrestles with God

God could easily have prevailed against Jacob, but instead, they wrestled until morning. Even when the Man caused Jacob’s hip to be out of joint, Jacob refused to let Him go until He blessed Jacob.

1. *The significance of a name change:* Jacob lived up to his name throughout his entire life. When the Lord changed His name to Israel, he was no longer a “heel catcher” or one who was deceived, but someone who was restored and renewed. The Lord changed his entire identity.
2. *Jacob refused to let Him go:* Jacob’s struggle with God showed his perseverance and determination in seeking God’s blessing, and God answered his persistence with a reward: his faith was renewed, and he was blessed.
3. *Limping to rely on God:* It is never God’s will that we run from our problems. With the limp that God gave him, Jacob could not use his own strength anymore. He no longer stood by his own power, but by God’s.
4. *The meaning of wrestling:* Jacob’s persistence teaches us about our attitude in prayer. When we persistently seek out God, His help and strength will come.
5. *Peniel:* Jacob may have been weakened physically, but he was strengthened spiritually. Through the new strength he had received, Jacob could now face Esau with courage from God.

Life Application

1. Know God’s Presence
2. Respond in Faith by Building Our Altar
3. “I will not let You go until You bless me!”

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Lesson 8 Homework Assignment

Jacob: Two Significant Encounters

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Genesis 32:26):

1. What does the memory verse teach us about our attitude when we pray?
2. “So Jacob called the name of the place _____. ‘For I have _____ God face to face, and my life is _____.’ ” (Genesis 32:30)
3. How did Jacob respond after his dream? Why is this significant?
4. What can we learn about the limp that God gave to Jacob?
5. Have you built an altar for God in your life? Explain. If not, how can you build one up now?
6. How can you change your faith to an active one like Jacob’s?