

AMAZING STORIES

Wrestling with God (Jacob)

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1. Jacob's life of trickery and deception

- Brother Esau
- Uncle Laban

⁶ After delivering the message, the messengers returned to Jacob and reported, "We met your brother, Esau, and he is already on his way to meet you—with an army of 400 men!" ⁷ Jacob was terrified at the news. He divided his household, along with the flocks and herds and camels, into two groups. ⁸ He thought, "If Esau meets one group and attacks it, perhaps the other group can escape."

Genesis 32:6-8 NLT

2. Jacob faces his past

⁹ Then Jacob prayed, "O God of my grandfather Abraham, and God of my father, Isaac—O LORD, you told me, 'Return to your own land and to your relatives.' And you promised me, 'I will treat you kindly.'" ¹⁰ I am not worthy of all the unfailing love and faithfulness you have shown to me, your servant. When I left home and crossed the Jordan River, I owned nothing except a walking stick. Now my household fills two large camps! ¹¹ O LORD, please rescue me from the hand of my brother, Esau. I am afraid that he is coming to attack me, along with my wives and children. ¹² But you promised me, 'I will surely treat you kindly, and I will multiply your descendants until they become as numerous as the sands along the seashore—too many to count.'"

Genesis 32:9-12 NLT

3. Jacob wrestles with God

- No chance for Jacob to run away
- Neither one loses the wrestling match
- Jacob gets an injured hip and new name

²⁴ This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break. ²⁵ When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob's hip and wrenched it out of its socket. ²⁶ Then the man said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking!" But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." ²⁷ "What is your name?" the man asked. He replied, "Jacob." ²⁸ "Your name will no longer be Jacob," the man told him. "From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won." **Genesis 32:24-28 NLT**

Next Steps:

- Commit that I will not run from my past actions or responsibilities. I will say "yes" to God: _____
- Commit to facing my past actions with God's grace and help: _____
- Forgive those in my past who have hurt me by their words and actions
- Read Genesis 32 this week
- _____