

THE COMMONS LEADER GUIDE

November 11th
Week 3 - Jacob/Israel - Delivered

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Genesis 32-33

MAIN POINTS

- God delivers us not just by rescuing us, but by transforming us through encountering Him.
- Deliverance comes through dependence.

BACKGROUND

In Genesis 25 and 27, God chooses Jacob to be heir to His covenant promise based on His mercy and sovereign purpose and despite Jacob's deceit. In Ch. 28-31, Jacob becomes the victim of deceit himself and goes through personal and spiritual growth as he finds himself on the receiving end of deception and begins to recognize God's sovereign hand in his life.

In Ch. 32, Jacob obeys God's command to return to his home country (31:3). But Jacob fears his brother Esau and wrestles with doubts of God's goodness and faithfulness (32:9-12). Jacob takes it into his own hands to put up as many safety buffers as possible to ensure his brother, Esau, will accept him. But before this can even happen, Jacob encounters God in a powerful, intimate way (32:22-32). He finally recognizes the importance of being blessed by God and is forever changed. God could have destroyed him in this wrestling match but instead delivers him (v. 30). God changes Jacob's name to Israel (meaning "he strives with God") to signify this life change. Jacob no longer strives with men, but with God.

It is only after Jacob's transformation that he encounters his brother. Esau forgives Jacob and the two are reconciled. Esau's grace and forgiveness parallels God's grace and forgiveness, and Jacob humbles himself before Esau just as he found himself humbled before the LORD. Jacob goes from the deceiver to the delivered, and his life is a powerful testament of God's mercy, provision, and redemption.

RESOURCES

[Enduring Word Commentary - Genesis](#)
[Why Did Jacob Wrestle With God? \(Genesis 32\)](#)
[Wrestling God for a Blessing](#)

UPCOMING COMMONS EVENTS

Commons Gathering - **Nov 18**

Group Giving - **Nov 25**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

READ Genesis 32

1. Jacob was "greatly afraid" (v. 7) to meet his brother again. How did he handle his fear?
2. What do you observe about Jacob's prayer in v. 9-12?
3. What stands out to you about Jacob's night of wrestling with God?
4. Why do you think God allowed Jacob to wrestle instead of just blessing him immediately?
5. How does Jacob's new name, Israel, reflect what he experienced that night?

READ Genesis 33

1. What emotions do you think Jacob felt when he saw Esau approaching?
2. How do you think Jacob's encounter with God in the previous chapter impacted his reunion with his brother?
3. Read Luke 15:11-32. The father in this story represents God. What similarities do you see between this story and Jacob's reunion with Esau?
4. What does the encounter with Esau teach us about God's work in reconciliation?

APPLICATION

1. When Jacob wrestles with God, he is delivered because he clings to God and refuses to let go (32:26). His deliverance comes through dependence on God. What would it look like for you to cling to God in your life right now?
2. Is there someone in your life that you need to reconcile with? How can you pursue reconciliation with a heart posture of humility, love, and forgiveness?
3. Jacob (now Israel) experienced a total life transformation through encountering God. When did you encounter God? Has God transformed your life? How so?

