

The Essentials: The Book of Genesis

Session 7: Genesis 31-35

Opening Collect

Together: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Watch Video

Read: Genesis 32:22-32 (out loud)

Discussion:

1. In our passage, Jacob faces an inevitable confrontation with his estranged twin brother whom he wronged and is (rightly!) angry with him. Describe how Jacob must feel confronting his brother.
2. Jacob wrestles with God in his most desperate moment. Have you ever wrestled with God?
3. Margery described how Jacob receives two things after this mysterious night of wrestling: a wound and a new name. How do wounds play a part in our life with God?
4. Notice in verse 24 Jacob wrestles with God. But in verse 26 Jacob clings to God. Have you ever thought of the way contending with God might also look like clinging to him? How might that change the way you think about your life with God.
5. Why must Jacob wrestle with God before he confronts Esau?
6. In what ways does Jacob figure Christ?

Check in and closing prayers

Genesis 32:22–32

[22] The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. [23] He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. [24] And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. [25] When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. [26] Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." [27] And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." [28] Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." [29] Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. [30] So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered." [31] The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip. [32] Therefore to this day the people of Israel do not eat the sinew of the thigh that is on the hip socket, because he touched the socket of Jacob's hip on the sinew of the thigh. (ESV)