

# Genesis: God and the Originals

## JACOB, ESAU AND A WRESTLING MATCH

### Preparing to Wrestle with Esau (32:1-23)

#### Vv. 1-2

1. Who meets Jacob after Laban and him part ways, how many were there, and what do you suppose happened?

#### Vv. 3-12

2. In these passages, what are the four sections of the action?
3. What is Jacob hoping for with Esau? How does this take us all the way back to the end of ch. 27?
4. How are the specifics of Jacob's prayer a recitation of the promises made to him by God?

BONUS: How does fear sometimes positively bring us to prayer?

#### Vv. 13-23

5. How does v. 20 summarize what Jacob tries to do in these passages?
6. "Servant...Lord...pacify...receive." How is this, interestingly, a reversal of roles promised to Jacob and Esau? And does it hold any future meaning or fulfillment?

### Wrestling with God Instead (32:24-32)

7. Read this section as a table group. What kind of questions arise from the text?
8. How is Jacob "wounded" in this wrestling match?
9. What does Jacob desire from this wrestling match, and what does he receive?

BONUS: What's the point of God wrestling with Jacob? How does it make more sense when considering the grander story of God's salvation through Jesus?

## Jacob and Esau's Wrestle-less Reunion (33)

### Vv. 1-4

10. How does Jacob's ordering of his entourage show his favoritism?

11. How does Jacob show deference to Esau?

12. How are we ALL shocked by their reunion?

In Hebrew, the word for "\_\_\_\_\_ " is one letter different from "\_\_\_\_\_ " (habaq—abaq).

### Vv. 5-15

13. What is Jacob's central desire in these verses (hint: the Hebrew word "khane")?

14. Is Jacob deceiving Esau in these verses, or are these "polite negotiations"?

### Vv. 16-20

15. How do these last passages "wrap up" the story of Jacob and the fulfillment of God's promise to him? And how is God, now truly the God of Jacob?

Sukkoth means shelter, \_\_\_\_\_ (biv-oo-ak), or tent, which explains the meaning behind the Jewish Festival of \_\_\_\_\_.

BONUS: How is Esau intriguingly like God to Jacob? What does this say about Israel's relationship with other people, if anything?

