

Series: Lessons from God's Servants

Lesson 7: Jacob's Fight to be Blessed

*Announcements, encouragement to invite people and opening prayer.



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** What is one thing in your life that you fought for and refused to give up until you had it?

Transition: There are some things that demand an obsession if you want to completely own it. Our faith is one of those things that the harder we fight to grow in our relationship with Christ, the more we are blessed. Today we will learn from the ultimate fighting champion. He was so aggressive it literally got his name changed. Today we look deeper into what made Jacob such a great example of faith.

Bottom Line: Jacob spends his life fighting for God's blessing.

LESSON PLAN

Background: *Esau has vowed to kill his brother Jacob as soon as his father Isaac died and he had finished mourning his father's death. Rebekah tells Jacob to get while the gettin' is good! She told him to flee to her brother Laban's house in Haran and lay low. Isaac calls for Jacob, blesses him and tells him to go to Laban's and do not marry a Canaanite woman. Marry one of Laban's daughters. Isaac reminds Jacob of the community that will arise from the blessing of God passed to him. Jacob arrives and falls in love with Rachel. He works 7 years to be able to marry her. Then Laban tricks Jacob into sleeping with Leah, the older daughter. Jacob is outraged but said the oldest had to be first. If he worked another 7 years, he could marry Rachel. So by deceit, Jacob works for 14 years and ends up with 2 wives, but it was Rachel he truly loved. Through all the lies and deceit and sadness, Jacob still trusts God. Meanwhile, Jacob decides to go to Laban and offer cattle, donkeys, sheep, goats, menservants and maidservants and approach him humbly as a servant to restore peace, even though Isaac had said the older would serve the younger. He is risking his life to be a peacemaker. He is met with the information that Esau is coming to meet him with 400 men!*

Read Genesis 32:7-12

1. What are some insights into Jacob we see as he prays to God before what looks to be a frightening battle?

Series: Lessons from God's Servants

Lesson 7: Jacob's Fight to be Blessed

Question: What promises has God made you that can strengthen you in time of trouble? How can you make that part of your prayers of desperation and find strength?

Read Genesis 32:22-32

Jacob sends gifts ahead. He sends 200 female goats, 20 male goats, 200 ewes, 20 rams, 30 female camels with their babies, 40 cows, 10 bulls, 20 female donkeys and 10 male donkeys. Jacob is series about ending this family feud. He tells the servants to take them and give them as a gift to Esau and say, "They belong to your servant Jacob. They are a gift sent to my lord, Esau and he is coming behind us." Jacob makes camp for the night.

2. Who was left with Jacob?

3. About 24 miles north of the Dead Sea is the Jabbok River which flows west into the Jordan Valley. Everyone goes across the river along with Jacob's possessions. What does Jacob do?

4. How long does he wrestle with what appears to be a man?

5. How was Jacob doing against this man?

6. What does Jacob say when the man tells him to let go because it is daybreak?

Obviously, Jacob realizes that this is a messenger or an angel of God that He is wrestling. It may have been an angel of God, most likely, or God Himself appearing as a man. We don't know. Jacob would not be asking for a blessing from a man who was looking for a fight.

Question: Have you ever in some sense wrestled with God and refused to give up? How?

Series: Lessons from God's Servants

Lesson 7: Jacob's Fight to be Blessed

Question: How were you blessed for the struggle you relentlessly fought?

7. Remember the name Jacob meant heel-grabber. Why was Jacob given that name?

8. What new name does God give to Jacob?

9. What does that new name mean?

Question: If God were going to name you for your struggle to be blessed, what would He call you?

Question: What are some of the great truths in Scripture that call us to battle?

10. What did Jacob name the place and what did it mean?

11. Describe the final scene when it was all over.

Until the very end of his life Jacob, now called Israel, has refused to quit fighting to receive the blessing of God. His faith stands as a light shining brightly for us to follow. His faith was shaped into a great nation for God's glory, a nation who would produce the Messiah for all the earth. I'm sure that Israel was a great example to the Apostle Paul who said I refuse to quit fighting the good fight, running the race God prepared for me. Paul says I beat myself, push the limits to keep pressing on toward the prize Christ has called him to claim.

Question: Who are some great shining examples of faith to you?

Read Revelation 12:7-12



Series: Lessons from God's Servants

Lesson 7: Jacob's Fight to be Blessed

12. What fight is described here and what was the outcome?

13. The scene now moves to the final victory in Christ. How do those who win find the power to defeat Satan?

Question: How should this truth be used to propel us to become more bold in sharing our faith?

Final Question: What is the one idea that stands out to you most from this lesson?