

ABRAHAM

“Jacob Wrestles with God”

Series Objective: Students will learn:

- We can trust God
- We should be patient as we wait for God to work out his plan in his time
- God is able to overcome any obstacles that seem to get in the way of his promises
- God has a plan and is in the process of carrying it out

Series Theme Verse: Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God... Deuteronomy 7:9

Lesson Objective: Students will discover and understand:

- When we come to God in true repentance, He is able to change us.
- God hears the prayers of those who believe in Him.

Lesson Passage: Genesis 32

Materials Needed: newspapers/magazines, glue, scissors, paper to glue verses on

Lesson Plan: Explanation of Genesis 32:24—The one wrestling with Jacob is elsewhere identified as an angel (Hosea 12:4). Jacob was not stronger than the angel. The point of the wrestling was not to determine who could physically best the other. Instead, Jacob struggled to gain a blessing, and the angel withheld it until he could bring about submission from Jacob. The angel was unable to prevail until Jacob agreed to terms (Genesis 32:26). When Jacob saw the face of God, he recognized God for who he is and realized his comparative weakness.

Talking Points:

1. What did Jacob want to do after working for Laban for a very long time?
2. Do you remember what happened between Jacob and Esau in the past?
3. Why was Jacob afraid when the messengers returned from Esau?
4. What did Jacob do to the people with him?
5. What happened when Jacob was left alone in the camp?
6. Who is the man Jacob wrestled with?
7. What happened to Jacob while they were wrestling?
8. Why is it that Jacob still doesn't want to let the man go?
9. Did Jacob receive what he wanted? Why? (Jacob knew what he wanted; he did not give up)
10. What lesson can we learn from this story of Jacob? (We should not give up; God is always there to help)

The Story Retold:

Before telling the story have a multi-player thumb wrestling tournament. Gradually eliminate players to determine the “Thumb-Wrestling Champion.” See link for example: <http://funsubstance.com/fun/86055/multi-thumb-wrestling-match/>

The Story and Me:

Divide the memory verse up into sections then divide the youth group into smaller groups. Hand out a newspaper to each group and give 10 mins to slice up words and/or letters out of the newspaper to make up their section of the memory verse and glue onto a piece of paper. Awards for most creative.