

IN THE BEGINNING GOD**The Reunion Genesis 32:1-33:20**

“ Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept.” Genesis 33:4

Day 1: Read Genesis 32:1–8.

1. The passage opens with Jacob returning to the land of Caanan. How long has Jacob been living with Laban? (27:42, 43) Why does he decide to go back to his own country? (Gen. 31:3; 32:9)
2. After Jacob stole Esau’s blessing, Rebekah told him to flee to Laban’s house. How was Jacob to know when Esau’s fury had subsided? (27:42–45) Since Jacob had not heard from his mother, what did he assume about Esau’s desire to kill him?
3. Jacob’s departure from and return to Canaan were marked by what similar encounter? (28:10–15; 32:1–2) Why do you think God would do this for Jacob at these times?
4. Jacob receives new information that Esau is coming to meet him with 400 men. How does this make Jacob feel? What does he expect will happen?

Day 2: Read Genesis 32:9–21.

5. Jacob’s fear for his life is not a new one (Gen. 27:41–43), but what is at stake now besides just Jacob’s life? (31:17; 32:4, 5, 11)
6. Jacob has two responses to his fear.
 - a. How does he try to take care of the situation himself?
 - b. How does he look to God to take care of the situation?
7. Although turning to God in prayer is not Jacob’s first response, when he does pray he prays well. What elements can you find in this prayer that make it a pattern worth emulating?

Days 3 & 4: Read Genesis 32:22–32.

8. Consider what it would be like for Jacob to be alone and have an unknown “wrestler” attack him in the darkness. Who is this mysterious attacker? (28, 30; Hosea 12:4, 5)
9. In what ways does this all-night struggle mirror Jacob’s life?
10. Jacob wrestles valiantly (at 97 years old!) all night, but what happens to Jacob’s natural strength when the angel touches his hip socket?
11. Why would God want to leave Jacob physically and spiritually “undone”—especially at the time when he was about to enter the Promised Land and claim God’s covenant promises? (Ps. 20:6, 7; John 15:5; 2 Cor. 12:9, 10)
12. Jacob fights in his own strength for his own way, but once his strength is broken, his adversary becomes his hope, and the very one he was fighting off he now clings to. Can you think of a time when you were resisting the Lord, and it seemed like he was against you, yet once you submitted, you realized he was your only hope and had been “for” you all along? (Heb. 12: 9–11)
13. “Jacob” means “heel grasper,” “cheat,” or “supplanter.” What is the new name that God gives Jacob? What does it mean? (v. 28)

Day 5: Read Genesis 33:1–20

14. Clearly Esau has had a change of heart as well as Jacob. How does Esau respond when he meets Jacob that demonstrates this? (vv. 4, 8, 9)
15. To whom does Jacob give the credit for his family and possessions (5b, 11a)?
16. In the past, Jacob was only out for himself, but now he is different.
 - a. How do we see this in his demeanor toward Esau?
 - b. How do we see this in the way he treats the others who are with him?
17. In verses 33:8–15 Jacob and Esau have some disagreements. In contrast to their interactions in the past, what is the content and tenor of their “argument”?
18. Jacob builds an altar in verse 20. Why is this a fitting end to the passage?