

WRESTLING WITH GOD

GENESIS 32:1-33:20

Sunday, March 9, 2025 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

As Jacob wrestled with **FEAR**, (32:1-21)

God was with him... 32:1-2 Joshua 1:9; Psalm 46:1; Matthew 28:20

...fear still loomed 32:6-21 Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Peter 5:7; Lamentations 3:22-23

↓ God **WRESTLED** him (32:24-32)

wrestling with God 32:24-25 Hosea 12:3-4; Psalm 13:1-2, 5; 1 Peter 5:6

broken and blessed 32:25-31 2 Corinthians 12:9-10; Philippians 1:6; Psalm 51:17

↑ so he'd trust **GOD'S STRENGTH** over his own. (33:1-20)

peace with the past 33:4-11 Colossians 1:20; Psalm 103:12; 1 John 1:9

faith for the future 33:18-20 Isaiah 26:3; Philippians 3:13-14; Psalm 20:7



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Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, "**Pray for...**" followed by your request.



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? — Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, take some time to catch up with each other as you gather.

If it helps, here's a question to discuss and get you going. Have everyone answer:

What's one thing you've tried to 'wrestle' under control—like a tricky recipe, a stubborn pet, a DIY project—that ended up surprising you with how it turned out?

Digging Deeper – A Bible Study






Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

1. **Read Genesis 32:1 to 33:20.** (Consider reading it from a translation like the NIV or a paraphrase like the Message to get a different feel of the narrative.) Then take some time to review your message notes. Looking back, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you this week? *Discuss it with your group before moving on.*
2. How do you think it is that Jacob recognized God's presence at Mahanaim (Gen 32:1–2), yet still let fear drive his actions (Gen 32:7–21)?
 - Can you think of a time you've done the same in your life? If you're willing, share it with your group.
3. Jacob wrestled with God all night (Gen 32:24–25)—when have you felt like you were wrestling with God, or with his will—what did you learn from it?
 - Did you give in and yield to him quickly? Or did it take "all night" to get your attention?
4. Jacob was broken (his hip) yet blessed (renamed Israel) in Genesis 32:25–28. Look up **Lamentations 3:31-32** and **1 Peter 5:10**—how do these passages show God working the midst of our weakness or brokenness?
 - Does that give you any hope or perspective on your own struggles, weakness, or brokenness? — By sharing them with your group, you might also find that others are able to speak into this and encourage you as well.

WELCOME TO WAWASEE!

This is who we hope you grow to *become* at Wawasee Bible...

If I'm truly growing as a follower of Jesus, I should be growing in the ways that I am...

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1 | Receiving From God. Am I reading the Word regularly? When am I gathering to hear the Word taught? What fruit of the Spirit do I see growing in my life?
- 
2 | Responding To God. How am I talking to and listening to God regularly? What are some healthy spiritual habits I'm working on (things like giving, scripture memory, repentance, rest, etc.)?
- 
3 | Receiving From Others. Where and how am I in community/friendship with other Christians in our church who have a window to speak into my life?
- 
4 | Moving Toward Others. How and where am I contributing to and initiating community with other Christians in our church? (Or am I only consuming?)
- 
5 | Going to those Far from God. How am I regularly going toward those who are far from God—loving them, sharing God's Story and my own story? When was the last time I shared God's story and/or my faith story? Who is on my PEARL list?

WORD FIND IN THE WORD

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find: Genesis 32:24-31 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

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 Penuel, limping because of his hip.

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life groups Study Guide (continued)

- 5. Esau's embrace surprised Jacob (Gen 33:4)—how did God's strength, not Jacob's gifts, bring peace with his past?
 - Where in your life do you need to trust God to heal a broken relationship or something from the past?
- 6. Building an altar at Shechem (Gen 33:20) showed Jacob's trust in God's strength moving forward. What practical steps can you take to trust God more with your future instead of relying solely on your own plans?
 - Get super practical. What is one tangible thing you can do this week? It doesn't need to be earth-shaking. It might be something very simple, like posting a scripture verse on the dashboard of your car with a sticky note... things like that. What can you do that would help you trust God more?

Taking it Home

- 7. As you wrap up... In what areas of your life do you most fear losing control? How has God challenged your belief that you have control over those areas?
- 8. How do these verses encourage us to trust God over ourselves? — Which one resonates with you most? Share with your group why.

⁸ Trust in him at all times... pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

PSALM 62:8 (NIV)

⁷ Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.

JEREMIAH 17:7 (NIV)

⁶ So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid."

HEBREWS 13:6 (NIV)

Prayer

As you close, take time to pray for each other.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

Wawasee Community Bible Church

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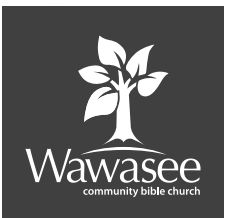
PURSuing PRESENCE

Sunday, March 13, 2025

PART 6

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GENESIS 32:1-33:20



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