

Major Event: PATRIARCHS

Lesson 4: Jacob becomes Israel

Scriptures: Genesis 32:1 - 36:1

Central Text: Genesis 32:9-12

9 And Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O LORD, who didst say to me, 'Return to your country and to your relatives, and I will prosper you,' 10 I am unworthy of all the lovingkindness and of all the faithfulness which Thou hast shown to Thy servant; for with my staff *only* I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two companies. 11 "Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and attack me, the mothers with the children. 12 "For Thou didst say, 'I will surely prosper you, and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.'"

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

1. Jacob prays to God, asking Him to fulfill what He promised (Gen. 32:1-12).
2. God fulfills the personal blessing and descendants portions of Abrahamic Covenant with Jacob (Gen. 32:13-33:16).
3. Jacob wrestles with God (Gen. 32:24-32, especially 32:30). Commentary From: *Constable's Study Notes* (<http://soniclight.com/constable/notes/pdf/genesis.pdf>):
"With his wrestling with God Jacob began a new stage in his life (v. 28); he was a new man because he now began to relate to God in a way new for him. As a sign of this, God gave him a new name that indicated his new relationship to God. "Israel" means "God's warrior." Jacob's new name introduced a new phase of his life. Thereafter he behaved either carnally or spiritually. Note which of his names Moses used from here on. When Jacob behaved like the "old Jacob," Moses referred to him as "Jacob," but when he behaved like Israel (God's warrior), Moses referred to him as "Israel".
4. Jacob's twelve sons would become the tribes of Israel in fulfillment of the descendants portion of the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 35:22b-26).
5. Esau's family would live in Edom and was not in God's chosen line (Gen. 36:1).

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: God ALWAYS keeps His word
2. Of Man: Prayer to God for what He has promised

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Genesis 32:1-33:16, Genesis 35:22b-36:1

Notes: Review the Abrahamic Covenant that God gave to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3, 7-8), to Isaac (Gen. 26:3-5), and to Jacob (Gen. 28:12-15).
Study Jacob's prayer and God's fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant to Jacob.
Review that God revealed the Abrahamic covenant to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.