

Patriarchs Study and Discussion Questions
Lesson Seven: “Israel” Resettles in Canaan – Genesis 32-36

Skim Genesis 32:1-21.

- 1) According to these verses, what concern did Jacob have? Give the phrases in verses 5, 7, and 11 that summarize the situation.

- 2) Closely examine Jacob’s prayer in Genesis 32:9-12. What kind of prayers did he pray? Use terms general enough to use as a model for your own prayers. Example: Jacob reminded God of His promises.

- 3) Is there an aspect of Jacob’s prayer that you seldom use in your own prayer life? If so, write a prayer to God about a current difficulty and include this (neglected) aspect of prayer in it.

Read Genesis 32:22-31.

- 4) Based on the text, who was the man with whom Jacob wrestled (include verse number)?

- 5) If you have forgotten what “Jacob” means, see Genesis 27:36. You may refer to any Bible text note giving the meaning. Please remember that text notes are *not* the more extensive commentary available in study Bibles but rather, the brief footnotes that clarify translation or give alternate translations of a word or phrase. Based on the accounts of Jacob’s life up to this point, in what ways had his name been fitting? Would he have been anxious to confess his name (and thus, his nature) when he was asked about it (32:27)?

- 6) The encounter that occurred in this passage was real, but it also symbolized the meaning of Jacob's new name "Israel" ("he struggles with God"). In light of Jacob's previous struggles with significant people in his life, tell what you think this event signified and note who ended the struggle.
- 7) How have you struggled against the lordship of Jesus Christ? How are you currently resisting Him? Has your resistance left you with any kind of a limp (handicap in life)?

Skim Genesis 33.

- 8) How was Jacob's reunion with Esau different than he had expected? Who deserved the credit?
- 9) What has God done for you that exceeded your wildest imagination?

Skim Genesis 34.

- 10) Give a brief factual summary of the story. Who were the victims?
- 11) Is there a small step you can take toward making peace in a relationship this week (that might go a long way toward preventing some unknown future disaster)?

Read Genesis 35.

- 12) According to verses 1-6 and Genesis 28:10-22, under what circumstances had Jacob previously been at Bethel and what was the significance of his return?
- 13) What deeply significant events in Jacob's life are described in Chapter 35?
- 14) What have you learned about God in this lesson that will keep you steady, even in the greatest thrills and the greatest disappointments of your own life?
- 15) Glance at Genesis 36 just to get the idea of its subject. According to 36:1 and 9, to what important people group, whose kinship to Israel is explained in this chapter, did Esau give his name?