

Video:
<https://biblestoriesonline.com/stories/Jacob-Grabbing-Hold-of-God> (5:08)

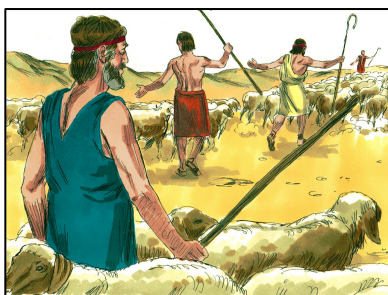
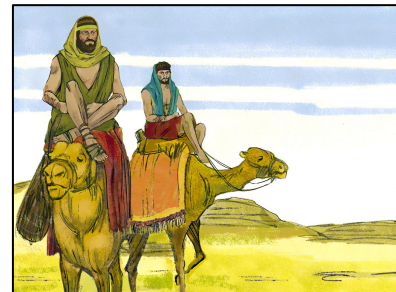


JACOB WRESTLES WITH AN ANGEL (Genesis 32)



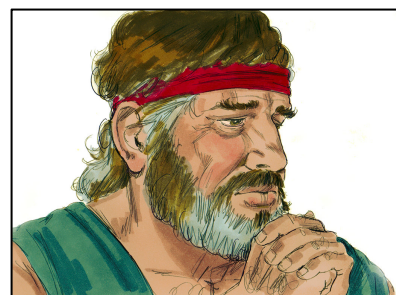
The Bible says that Jacob and his family travelled to Canaan. Jacob's twin brother Esau lived in the nearby land of Edom. Jacob worried that Esau would still be angry and want to kill him.

Jacob sent messengers ahead to talk to Esau. The messengers came back and said, "Esau is coming to meet you. He is on his way with 400 men!"



Jacob sent many of his animals as a gift for Esau. He hoped that Esau would be happy to get this present. But Jacob was still afraid. So, he sent his family across the Jabbok River to protect them. He even sent the rest of his animals.

Jacob stayed alone. He prayed to God. He said, "I am afraid that Esau will attack us. Please help me, God. You have always been kind and faithful to me. You promised that my family will grow to be as many as the sands of the sea."





During the night, a man came and wrestled with Jacob. Jacob didn't know it, but the man was an angel. They wrestled all night long. In the morning, Jacob was still fighting. He would not give up.

The angel touched Jacob's hip and made it hurt. It made Jacob limp. But he still held onto the angel and wouldn't let go. The angel said, "It is daybreak. Let me go."

Jacob must have realized that this wasn't just a man that was wrestling. So, Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." The angel said, "**Your name will no longer be Jacob. Your name is changed to Israel.**"

The name Jacob means deceiver. But Jacob wasn't a deceiver anymore. Israel means "God wrestles." Israel (Jacob) had wrestled with God's angel. That's just like wrestling with God face to face. Jacob crossed over the river and joined his family. He told them that his new name is Israel.

God was proud of Israel (Jacob) - that he finally surrendered. **Now Israel finally knew that he needed God to help him. He finally knew he couldn't do things for himself – he needed to surrender to God.**



**We need God to help us.
He wants us to surrender to Him.**

PRIMARY GRADES ACTIVITY

Color the picture of Jacob wrestling with an angel.



Jacob's name was changed to

I S R A E L

UPPER GRADES ACTIVITY

JACOB WRESTLES WITH GOD

Wordsearch by Sharefaith.com



H	B	L	E	O	M	I	N	G	N	K	N	C	A	G
I	G	V	W	E	C	J	R	V	X	J	I	O	E	I
P	A	W	V	T	D	A	I	W	L	I	N	C	I	F
R	W	E	S	A	U	C	M	N	O	E	E	O	G	T
U	L	T	M	K	O	O	V	E	E	V	W	H	H	S
E	O	A	D	C	V	B	C	R	N	T	O	T	M	Z
W	R	K	B	O	G	B	K	W	T	O	V	G	O	O
G	B	O	D	A	X	K	L	H	R	S	N	S	R	N
I	W	P	Z	A	N	V	G	L	N	I	F	W	A	D
T	H	R	E	E	K	I	E	V	E	S	O	L	C	D
P	H	I	G	S	F	G	Y	S	M	N	M	F	H	E
Y	X	S	W	I	I	T	S	B	L	O	I	U	E	G
B	I	O	H	X	V	E	F	B	L	E	A	H	L	G
T	S	W	G	X	L	P	X	O	M	V	J	R	A	U
G	O	D	E	B	X	I	S	R	A	E	L	C	Z	H

Word Bank

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|-------|--------|----------|
| JACOB | HIP | HUGGED |
| GIFTS | LABAN | RACHEL |
| FIGHT | ESAU | LEAH |
| GOD | ISRAEL | BLESSING |



Think about it:

What does the name "Israel" mean? _____

Why do you think God changed Jacob's name? _____
