

## **GOD CHANGED JACOB'S NAME TO ISRAEL**

Genesis 32:1–33:20

Key Verse: 32:28

1. Review why Jacob had to flee from his home 20 years earlier (27:41–45). Now, as his large family begins their journey back there, what happens, and why (32:1–2)? How does Jacob prepare to meet Esau (3–5)? What news do the messengers bring back (6), how does it affect Jacob (7–8), and what does this show about him?
2. In his prayer, how does Jacob address God, and why (9)? What does he say about himself (10)? What is the point of his prayer (11)? How does he try to overcome his fear (12)? What can we learn from him about how to pray?
3. Describe Jacob's "present" to Esau (13–15). What does he instruct his servants to say and do (16–20a)? What is Jacob's goal in this (20b)? Note the footnotes in verse 20; what is the significance of the word "face" here?
4. What does Jacob do next (22–23), and what happens (24)? How else is this wrestling match described (25)? What happens at daybreak, and what does this show about Jacob (26)? How and why is his name changed (27–28)? Why does Jacob ask the man's name, and with what outcome (29–30)? What impact does this have (31–32)?
5. Describe how Jacob prepares to meet Esau; what does this show about him (33:1–3)? Describe Esau at their meeting (4); what is the significance of this? How is Jacob's family introduced to Esau (5–7)? How is the matter of Esau's "present" settled (8–11), and what can we learn from Jacob's testimony here (10b)?
6. How is their parting ways described (12–17); why does Jacob not want to stay with Esau? What does he do next (18–20), what is the significance of his altar and the name he gives it? What is the problem with Jacob trying to settle down here?