



12 WEEK SERMON SERIES: WEEK #2 JACOB

While some people discover their faith in God comes easily for them, most people find it is a long journey with a mixture of struggles and successes; this is certainly true with Jacob. Although Jacob is known 'as one who persists with God' (Genesis 32:28), as one who received a new name, Israel, as one who became the father of the 12 tribes of Israel, and one whose name is listed in the Hall of Faith in Hebrew 11; Jacob struggled with his faith journey. Truth be told, Jacob was a deceiver, conniver, manipulator, and ran away from his problems. Despite his flaws, Jacob was persistent in discovering God's blessings, even though he did it the wrong way.

God was also determined to fulfill His covenant to Jacob. Not only did He inform Jacob's mother about his future, God visited Jacob twice when he was running away from home. The first time, was in a dream. The second time, in a wrestling match. Eventually, both God and Jacob received what they were ultimately pursuing: the Abrahamic Covenant/the formation of a new nation.

JACOB: OVERCOMING THE OBSTACLES

READ: Genesis 25:21-24 Genesis 32:24-32 Romans 8:37

Jacob was the third person in God's plan to start the nation of Israel from Abraham's family. Sometimes, Jacob seemed to get in the way of the plan, but God used his life anyway.

Jacob's name means 'to supplant', 'to deceive', 'heel catcher', or 'to grab'. He certainly lived up to his name!

- He grabbed his twin brother Esau's heel during birth.
- He grabbed his brother's birthright through trickery.
- He grabbed a blessing from his blind father while pretending to be Esau.
- He deceived his father-in-law when running away.
- He used his children and wives as a shield when he feared that Esau would harm him. (Genesis 33:1-3)

Questions

1. Jacob wanted the right thing but he obviously went about it the wrong way. How could Jacob have acted differently? Would this make a difference in receiving God's blessings? Why?
2. Read Genesis 28:10-22. What was God's promise? What was Jacob's promise? How were these promises fulfilled?
3. Jacob struggled in his faith journey. What or who would you say was his greatest obstacle? Why?
4. Read Genesis 32:24-32. What does this passage tell you about God? What does it tell you about Jacob? What does it tell you about your faith journey?
5. What are the obstacles in your faith journey and what or who is the major cause of them? How might you be able to overcome these obstacles?