

# Jacob (Israel) Wrestles With God

Genesis 32: 22-32



## The Story: Genesis 32:22-32 (Have them color the front while you read)

Have you ever watched a wrestling match? Wrestling is a very popular sport all over the world. Amateur wrestling is popular in schools, colleges, and in the Olympics. There is also professional wrestling like we see on television. I think most of that kind of wrestling is fake, but people still enjoy watching it. Wrestling is one of the oldest sports in the world dating back thousands of years.

You might be surprised to know that there is even a wrestling match mentioned in the Bible. In fact, that is what our lesson is about today. One of the wrestlers in our story today is very well known to you. Let's see if you can guess who it was. He was the son of Isaac and Rebekah. He had a twin brother named Esau that he cheated out of his birthright. He had two wives named Leah and Rachel because he was tricked by his uncle Laban into marrying Leah even though it was Rachel that he loved and wanted to marry. Can you guess who he was? That's right! It was Jacob.

As our story opens, Jacob and his two wives, his servants, and his eleven sons were traveling to meet Esau. That night, they came to a river. Jacob got them all across to the other side, but he stayed behind by himself. The Bible tells us that all night a man wrestled with Jacob. As they were wrestling, the man touched Jacob's hip and it was twisted as he wrestled with him. When the dawn came, the man saw that he would not win the match, so he said to Jacob, "Let me go for the dawn is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." 27 And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." 28 Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be

called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." 29 Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. 30 So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered." 31 The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip. 32 Therefore to this day the people of Israel do not eat the sinew of the thigh that is on the hip socket, because he touched the socket of Jacob's hip on the sinew of the thigh.

This is the story of how the people of Israel got their name! They were the sons of Jacob!

What a story! **Can you imagine having a wrestling match with God?**

I think we often do get into a wrestling match with our Heavenly Father. We want to do things our way, and he wants us to "give up" and let Him be in control of our life. The things that He wants for us are much better than the things we want for ourselves.

Because we don't do, say and believe what is right, The Father sent Jesus, to save us. Because of Jesus, we have hope and salvation.

**Let's Pray: (Pray the Lord's Prayer)**

### TRUE OR FALSE

- Jacob wrestled with God
- He didn't want to let God go until God blessed him..
- God renamed Jacob "Darth Vader".
- God gave Jacob his new name because he had "striven with God and with men, and have prevailed."

Activity: WORD SEARCH (Find the words in the puzzle)

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

Bless  
Day Night  
God  
Hip  
Israel

Jabbok  
Jacob  
Jesus  
Penuel  
Wrestle

Try and unscramble these words:

Esujjs \_\_\_\_\_

Yda \_\_\_\_\_

Srewtel \_\_\_\_\_

Iarlse \_\_\_\_\_

Selbs \_\_\_\_\_

Gdo \_\_\_\_\_

Hpi \_\_\_\_\_

Elpenu \_\_\_\_\_

Tnhig \_\_\_\_\_

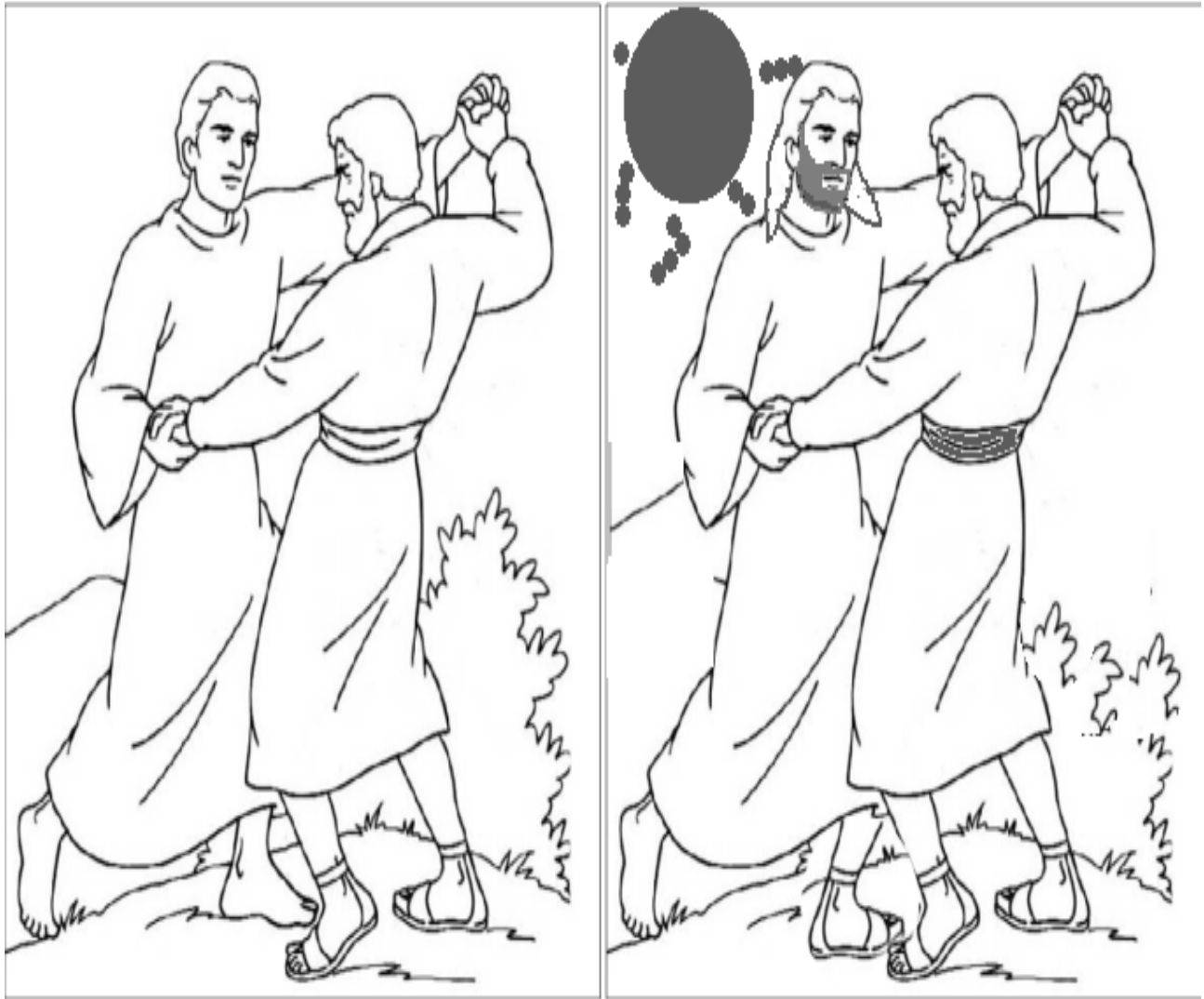
Acjbo \_\_\_\_\_

Bjokba \_\_\_\_\_

Bless  
Day Night  
God  
Hip  
Israel

Jabbok  
Jacob  
Jesus  
Penuel  
Wrestle

Eye Game: The picture on the right has been changed. Find all seven changes.



- Catechism: 1. Review the 10 Commandments (Say them once)
2. Practice the Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.