

Jacob Wrestles With God

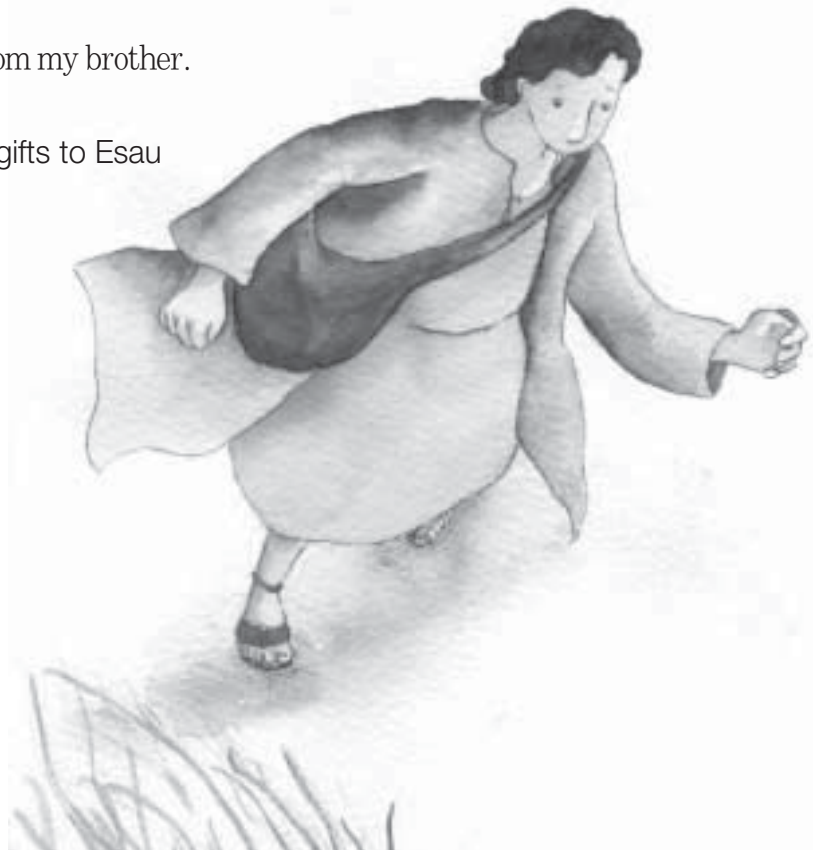
Genesis 32:1~33:20

Jacob, who took his brother's blessing, left for Haran to run away from Esau. Haran was where his mother's older brother, Laban, was living. While living in Haran, Jacob got married and ended up gaining a lot of property. He also had 11 sons. All of these things were what God gave to Jacob.

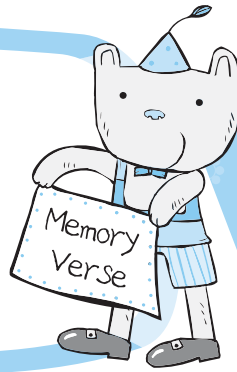
Twenty years had passed. Jacob ended up having to go back to his country according to the word of God. But because he took his brother's blessing, he was afraid to meet his brother. And after hearing that Esau was coming out to meet him with 400 men, he grew even more afraid. So he prayed earnestly to God, saying,

God, please protect me from my brother.

After he prayed, he sent gifts to Esau to try to please him.



Continue earnestly in prayer, being
vigilant in it with thanksgiving
Colossians 4:2



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Later that night, Jacob was left alone when a certain man came and began wrestling with him. The man, seeing how he did not prevail against Jacob, touched the socket of Jacob's thigh, causing Jacob's hipbone to become dislocated. When it became daybreak, the man wanted to leave, but Jacob, earnestly asking for a blessing, wouldn't let him go until he gave him a blessing. So the man changed Jacob's name to Israel, which means "He has struggled with God and has prevailed," and blessed him.

The man who wrestled with Jacob was God. The day after he received God's blessing, Jacob ended up meeting Esau. Contrary to Jacob's worries, Esau greeted Jacob warmly and Jacob was able to go back to his country, as God had said, safely.



Today's Study

Jacob's Wrestling

1. For how long did Jacob wrestle?

2. Why did God bless Jacob?

...And in his strength he struggled with God. [4] Yes, he struggled with the Angel and prevailed; He wept, and

■■■■■ ■■■■■ from Him. (Hosea 12:3-4)

Just like how God listened to Jacob's earnest pleading, God listens when we pray earnestly and continually.

He Who Made Harmony

1. How did Esau greet Jacob when he met him?

2. Who could've been the One who changed Esau's heart?

When a man's ways ■■■■■ the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at

with him. (Proverb 16:7)



Today's Lesson

God, Who Listens to Prayers

Long ago, there was a widow who went to a judge who didn't care about people.

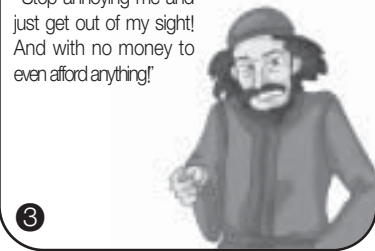
"Please get justice for me from my adversary!"



"Hmph! It's just a widow who doesn't even have a penny, like a beggar."



"Stop annoying me and just get out of my sight! And with no money to even afford anything!"



The widow followed the judge around wherever he went.



She went to him everyday, to the point of pure annoyance. It was just earnest, desperate requesting.



"Argh! This widow keeps annoying me; Dam it, I guess I just have to do what she wants.."



The wicked judge listened to the widow's continuous requesting. Like this, our God also listens to our earnest, sincere prayers.

Choose three prayers that you really have to pray for to God, write them down in the "Prayer Topic" space, and pray for one week. Write a checkmark each day you pray.

Prayer Topic	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat

1. With what kind of heart did you pray?

2. If there is something God answered among the prayers above, write it down.

If we are honestly praying to God, He will answer us even if it takes a long time.

Parable



God, Who Listens to Prayers

Carole has muscle asthenia, which is an abnormal loss of muscle strength. She is losing her hair and gets swellings because of the side effects of her strong medicine. She knows that other people think that she won't be able to live long. Even she herself sometimes thinks “It may be better if I just die like this” when her heart beats extremely fast or when she has a very difficult time breathing.

However, she is praying and giving thanks to God for what God has given to her. As she prays, she becomes more cheerful. Even though she is sick and has a hard time moving her body, she is trying to give comfort to other patients by preaching the gospel to them through prayer.

Then, at some point, her body and spirit started becoming healthier than before. She said, “Just like how we get and use money from a bank, God definitely answers prayers that we pray to Him.”

Parents

Teacher