

SERIES TITLE: Disguised

PART 6: GOD'S OBJECTIVE

TEXT: GENESIS 32

INTRODUCTION.

Genesis follows the work of God, moving from creation, to the entrance of sin, to judgment, to the selection of a family through which the nations will be blessed. The promises of God to Abraham were passed to Isaac, and now to his son Jacob. His story takes up half of the book of Genesis. Jacob is not an admirable character, but God is gracious.

DISCUSSION.

Describe a meeting that you dreaded and why you were dreading it.

EXAMINATION.

32:1-2 What do you think was the purpose of this angelic sighting?

32:3-8 Did Jacob have legitimate reason to be afraid?

32:9-12 Which characteristics of Jacob's prayer stand out to you?

32:13-23 What do you think of Jacob's strategy?

32:24-32 The stranger Jacob wrestles with is at least an angelic being, but more likely a manifestation of God himself (v.30). How can Jacob seem to win against a supernatural opponent? Doesn't that make God weak?

What is significant about the name change to Israel? Why do you think the nation gets its name through this patriarch, rather than Abraham or Isaac?

APPLICATION.

- When have you experienced God calling you to cling to him through your fears and struggles?
- What have you learned about prayer and how to pray in desperate situations?

- How have you experienced the weakness of God in a way that allowed you to hold on to him? (consider 1 Cor. 1:25; 2 Cor. 13:4; Hebrews 4:15)
- Has there been an encounter with God where you went away limping? What did you learn as a result?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?