

# Walk Through the Bible

## GENESIS 32-33

### OVERVIEW

In Genesis chapter 32, Jacob is returning home to Canaan and soon learns that Esau is headed his way with 400 men. Understandably afraid, Jacob divides his large company into two camps. He prays earnestly to God for deliverance, and he offers a considerable gift to appease his brother, Esau. That same night, a mysterious man shows up and begins to physically wrestle against Jacob and puts his hip out of joint. Jacob realizes that the identity of this stranger is God and asks for His blessing. The Lord changes Jacob's name to Israel and blesses him.

Chapter 33 shows the reunion of Jacob and Esau. When finally faced with meeting Esau, Jacob is pleasantly surprised. The brothers hug, kiss, and weep together. After meeting Jacob's family, Esau tries to persuade Jacob to travel back to Seir with him, but Jacob journeys deeper into Canaan, to a place called Shechem.

### DISCUSSION

- What does the word "Mahanaim" mean (**Genesis 32:1-2**)? Why is this significant?
- When Jacob prays, he does so by repeating the promises God made to him (**Genesis 32:9-12**). In what ways do the promises of God factor into prayer?
- Who is this stranger that wrestles against Jacob at Peniel (**Genesis 32:22-32**)? How do you know?
- The man who wrestles against Jacob changes his name to Israel. What are the meanings of these two names and why are they significant?
- The man wrestling against Jacob put his hip "out of joint" (**Genesis 32:25**). What lessons does this teach us about brokenness and usefulness in God's Kingdom?
- When Jacob and Esau meet face to face, Jacob's words are reminiscent of the blessing that was given to him by their father, Isaac (**Genesis 33:1-11**). Why do you think Jacob is speaking this way to Esau?

