

**Wrestling with God (Genesis 32:1-32)**

**Introduction**

- What is Jacob's relationship with Esau like at the start of Genesis 32?
- What happens in v1-2?
- What two levels of reality do we see all the way through the chapter?

**i Prayer is need crying out to God**

- After Jacob sends messengers to him in v3-5, how does Esau respond in v6?
- How does Jacob react in v7-8?
- What is noteworthy about his prayer in v9-12?
- What is Jacob's basic request here?
- What does this teach us about prayer?
- What does the Greek word for prayer, δεησις (deesis), mean?
- What are some of our areas of need as a church?
- What will be the result if we are not convinced of our need?

**ii Prayer is need crying out to God in faith**

- Where do we see Jacob's faith in his prayer of v9-12?
- In v12, how does he tackle his fear?

- How do our prayers fall short here?
- What is one practical way in which we could pray with faith?
- List a few passages you could plead in prayer.

### **iii Prayer leads to action**

- What does Jacob do next in v13-21?
- Is that a good thing or not?
- When are plans and strategies folly according to James 4:13-15?
- What are some occasions when we might be better at praying than acting?

### **iv Prayer is persistent**

- In v22-23, Jacob sends his family across the Jabbok. What happens in v24?
- What happens in v25?
- What does Jacob demand in v26-29?
- Who does v30 show that the “man” is?
- What does this have to teach us?
- What are some things which we should keep on praying for?

### **Conclusion**

- What is Jacob now ready for?