

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE:

(60-minute session—07-25-21)

We are looking forward to spending the summer with you in the Old Testament book of Genesis. In this OT book, we will talk about, “Family Struggles,” and how we can overcome many of them.

In today’s lesson, from Genesis 32, we see find Jacob wrestling with a mysterious man at Peniel. This occasion marks a major turning point in Jacob’s life. A transformation takes place in Jacob’s life. Jacob’s encounter with the mysterious man at Peniel was to be for him the climax of his spiritual history.

What good goal did Jacob have from the beginning of his life? What mistake/s did he make in pursuing this goal?

Jacob has been described as a man on the run. In what ways do we see people escape their problems today?

In Genesis 32, we find Jacob in a crisis situation. Describe the occasion for this crisis? How did Jacob handle it?

Read Genesis 32:9-12, 13-21 and then answer the following: What positive things did he do? What things did he do that still showed his lack of trust in God?

QUESTION: How do most people handle uncertain or difficult times? (Talk about the dangers in each.)

- 1.) Sometimes we _____:
- 2.) Sometimes we make _____ decisions.
- 3.) Sometimes we _____ on our own resources:

How can we better handle emergencies and predicaments in our lives?

“Crisis Management Steps for Christians”—Whitney Myers (Talk about the benefits of each step)

- 1.) Recall God’s _____:
- 2.) Put your trust in God through _____:
- 3.) Solicit prayer support from _____:
- 4.) Believe that God will _____:

Read Genesis 32:24-30

What happened to Jacob? Who was the mysterious man he wrestled with? What did Jacob name the place?

Can you describe the difference between what happened at Bethel and what happened at Peniel?

What lesson/s can you and I learn from Jacob’s wrestling match with the mysterious man?