



THE SABBATH CIRCLES HOME SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Unit Theme: Exploring the Stories of the Old Testament

Today's story: Jacob's Wrestling Match (Genesis 32:22-32)

Key Verse: "But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go unless you bless me.'" Genesis 32:26b

Questions to go deeper into the story:

- This story is part of a much longer story about Jacob and his brother Esau. These two brothers had a huge falling out (Genesis 25:19-34). Jacob runs away and builds a new life in a foreign land (Genesis 29-31) but eventually decides he needs to go home and make amends with Esau. This story today is what happens to Jacob the night before he reunites with his brother. Why do you think Jacob dreams about wrestling the night before he sees his brother again?
- Who has Jacob brought with him on his journey? How does he still end up alone?
- Why do you think Jacob demanded a blessing from the stranger?
- Who do you think this stranger was? Why?

Activity possibilities:

- Check out the coloring picture on the back of this insert.
- Jacob calls the place of his wrestling match "Peniel" because he had seen God face to face and survived. If you were able to see God face to face, how do you imagine God would look? How would you know it was God? Take a piece of paper and write a poem or a letter to God describing what you think such an encounter might be like. Or make a sketch of what you imagine your encounter with God could look like.



Check out this neat cartoon video of Jacob's story about wrestling with the stranger:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozIbU866z6A>

Have you ever watched wrestling on television or even in person? How does it remind you of this story? How is it different? Why do you think this story is in the Bible?

Remember, Rev. Ruth is always available to answer your questions anytime! Call, text, or email her or stop by the Savoy any Thursday afternoon from 2-4pm!!