

7.2 Genesis 31-32

Use in conjunction with the Student Manual

Student Name:

How does the Lord help us when He asks us to do difficult things? Put a X mark next to the phrase that you feel best completes the following statement: When you strive to obey a command from the Lord, He will...

Change the command so it will be simple and easy for you to accomplish.

Bless your efforts by providing a way for you to fulfill the command, even though it may still be difficult.

Intervene and do all the work for you.

Require you to do it entirely on your own without any help.

1. Explain why you chose that phrase.

Read Genesis 31:1–3, looking for what the Lord commanded Jacob to do.

Complete the following principle: The Lord will be with us when we ...

Why do you think Jacob and his family decided to leave without telling Laban?

Read Genesis 31:24–29, looking for how the Lord fulfilled his promise to be with Jacob.

2. a. According to verse 27, what did Laban claim he would have done if Jacob had not left in secret?

b. What do you think Laban might have been planning to do to Jacob before the Lord spoke to Laban in the dream?

c. From what you learn in verses 24 and 29, how did the Lord fulfill His promise to Jacob?

Read Genesis 31:41–42, looking for what Jacob told Laban. Consider how Jacob's testimony relates to the principle you identified in Genesis 31:3.

Imagine that you have a serious problem, and you ask one of your trusted friends for advice. Imagine that your friend listens carefully to the problem and then says, "Pray about it." What would you think if you were given that advice?

Read Genesis 32:1–5, looking for what Jacob did on his journey back to his homeland.

Why do you think Jacob sent messengers to Esau?

Read Genesis 32:6–8, looking for what Jacob learned from the messengers and how he responded to the news.

Read Genesis 32:9–12, looking for what Jacob did after he received the report about Esau.

3. a. What stands out to you about Jacob's prayer?

b. How does Jacob's prayer illustrate his faith in the principle you identified in Genesis 31:3?

Read Genesis 32:13–18, looking for what Jacob did after praying for God's help.

When we face difficulties, we should earnestly pray for help and then ...

4. Why is it important that, in addition to praying, we also do what we can to overcome our challenges?

How would you explain what it means to wrestle?

Read Genesis 32:24–26, looking for what happened to Jacob the night before he was to meet Esau.

5. a. Why might wrestling be a good way to describe what we must do as we seek blessings from the Lord?

b. What can we learn from Jacob's example about obtaining blessings from the Lord?

c. Why do you think the Lord requires us to put forth great effort before we receive some blessings?

Read Genesis 32:27–30, looking for the blessings Jacob received after he put forth great effort to seek the Lord's help.

6. Additional questions, thoughts, and insights I would like to share with my teacher:
