



Let's Get Ready to Rumble

January 26, 2020

Sermon Discussion Guide

God's promises prevail despite any obstacle which might come against his plans. In Genesis 32 and 33, the promised heir of God's covenant, Jacob, was faced with death as he traveled back to his homeland. Jacob's impending doom was brought on by no one else but himself. The last time this son of Isaac was home, he deceptively acquired Esau's birthright and blessing, which infuriated Esau to the point of wanting to kill Jacob. This was not an isolated event for Jacob, but rather a description of his character. Jacob's continual struggle was that he always tried to use his own deceptive methods to overcome his unfavorable situation, instead of trusting God's promises of protection and provision.

However, God had an incredible plan to save the heir of the covenant from his twin brother, Esau, and change Jacob's heart to trust in God over trusting in himself. Before meeting Esau, Jacob came up with all sorts of ideas to pacify Esau's anger. Jacob, though, learns after a long night of wrestling with God that his trust should be in the God whose plans are never thwarted, rather than his own deceptive schemes. From this story, the reader should also come away realizing that spending alone time with God, even if it be through wrestling, will always provide the results of God's glory and his good.

HIGHLIGHT

- **Read the Text** - Genesis 32, 33
- Ask for someone to read the text aloud. Or you read the text aloud.
- **Look for Highlights** - As the text is read, tell the group to be looking out for the highlights (a particular verse, something new learned, a reminder, a question, etc.)

EXPLAIN

- To whom was it originally written? Why?
- How does it fit with the verses before and after it?
- What is the Holy Spirit intending to communicate through this text?

APPLY

- What does this mean today?
- What is God saying to you personally?
- How can you apply this message to your life?

RESPOND

- In what ways does this passage call you to action?
- How will you be different because of what you've learned?
- What is a prayer to God in response to what you read today?