

Roots  
WBS Kids' Lesson #19  
Genesis 32-33

**Hook:** Have you ever wrestled a brother or sister, your parents or a friend for fun? Maybe you tumbled around on the carpet together laughing, tickling and and having a good time together.

**Book:** Well, there's a strange story in Genesis about Jacob and how he wrestled with God! This wresting match wasn't for fun, though. It was serious and it was for a purpose—God wanted Jacob's attention. The Lord appeared to him as a "man" (actually it was a special appearance by Jesus!). They wrestled not on carpet, but on the hard ground all night long! Jacob had to keep focus on the One he was wrestling and somehow he knew it was God. Even though God could easily win the match, Jacob was allowed to pin Him down. Then the "Man" (God) touched Jacob and injured his hip. As the sun started to come up, the "Man" told him to let Him go. The Bible says: **"But Jacob replied, 'I will not let you go unless you bless me.'**" So the "Man" said **"Your name will no longer be Jacob—for now on it's, 'Israel'; you wrestled with God and you've come through."**

**Look:** Jacob kept trying to do things his way. He was sneaky sometimes and tricked people. God wanted Jacob to live life better than that! He wanted Jacob to trust and rely on Him and not on his own cleverness. Jacob was wise this time, though, and held onto God, begging for His blessing. For the rest of Jacob's life he walked with a limp where God had injured his hip—a constant reminder of his wrestling match with God. And God did bless Him. Jacob knew better now that God was with Him and wanted His obedience. The name "Israel" means "God rules" or "God-Wrestler."

**Took:** Think of what God has blessed you with. Family, friends, food, toys...but never forget, remind yourself often, that your biggest blessing is Jesus who saves us from our sins. He gives us a forever home in Heaven, He is always with us, always loves us. What a blessing!

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

**Prayer:** "Dear Lord, We may wrestle with You sometimes when we are trying to get our own way. But You wrestled with Jacob so that he would see that Your way is the only way. Help us to see that, too, and to trust and rely on You. Amen."

## Genesis: Lesson #19



### what we learned

Jacob tried to do things his way. He was sneaky sometimes and tricked people. God wanted Jacob to live better than that! He wanted Jacob to trust and rely on Him, not on his own cleverness. So God, in the form of a man, engaged him in an all-night wrestling match! Jacob was wise this time and held onto God, begging for His blessing. **“...Jacob replied, ‘I will not let you go unless you bless me.’** So the “Man” said **“Your name will no longer be Jacob—for now on it’s ‘Israel’; you wrestled with God and you’ve come through.”** For the rest of Jacob’s life he walked with a limp where God had injured his hip—a constant reminder of his wrestling match with God. And God did bless Him. Jacob knew better now that God was with Him and wanted His obedience.



### memory verse

**“But Jacob replied, ‘I will not let you go unless you bless me’.”**  
**Genesis 32:26b**



### parent/child activity

Fold a piece of paper into four squares. Then, ask your child to draw four different pictures of things she considers to be a blessing in each square. She may draw a picture of your family, a favorite food or toy, a pet, etc. Affirm her choices. Then, turn the paper over and if she didn’t already count Jesus as one of her blessings, write J-E-S-U-S on the back. Remind her that our biggest blessing is Jesus who saves us from our sins. He gives us a forever home in Heaven, He is always with us, and always loves us. What a blessing!



### daily prayer

**“Dear Lord, We may wrestle with You sometimes when we are trying to get our own way. But You wrestled with Jacob so that he would see that Your way is the only way. Help us to see that, too, and to trust and rely on You. Amen.”**