

January 16

Genesis 32:22-32

These verses tell the strange story of Jacob wrestling with God. In the end, Jacob's name and his ability to walk were changed forever.

Question to Consider:

Has there been a time when you really struggled with something that was going on in your life? How did that experience change you?

Prayer:

Dear God, when I face difficult situations and struggles, help me to always turn to you first, and help me to be open to being changed by you because I know that when I am changed by you, I am changed for the better. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

January 17

Genesis 33:1-20

After being apart for years, Jacob and his twin brother Esau reunited and the story of their reunion is told in these verses.

Question to Consider:

Jacob was very worried about meeting his brother, but as it turned out he worried for no reason. Can you think of a time when you worried about something that didn't happen, or that turned out just fine? What was it?

Prayer:

Loving God, it is easy to become anxious and worried about things that might happen. I know that worrying doesn't really help anything, so when I start to worry, please help me to trust you more and to worry less. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

January 18

Genesis 37:1-11

This passage begins the story of Israel's (Jacob's) son Joseph, and the story starts with his dreams.

Question to Consider:

Can you recall a dream you had recently? What was it about?

Prayer:

Almighty God, you speak to us in many ways and in the past you have spoken to people through their dreams. Please help me to hear you when you speak to me. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

January 19

Genesis 37:12-36

Not surprisingly, Joseph's brothers did not like his dreams, so these verses tell the story of what they did in response.

Question to Consider:

Has someone ever made you and some friends mad enough that you acted on your anger? How did you respond and what was the result?

Prayer:

Merciful Father, I know there will be times when someone says or does something that makes me angry. Please help me to respond according to your will. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

January 20

Genesis 40:1-23

Joseph was accused of something he did not do, but even though he was innocent he wound up in prison. While in prison, he interpreted the dreams of two other inmates, and that story is told in these verses.

Question to Consider:

Have you ever suffered punishment or bad consequences for something that you didn't do? What happened, and how did you feel?

Prayer:

Forgiving God, sometimes in life we are falsely accused of something. That may happen to me and when it does, I will turn to you for help. I will also turn to you every day and ask you to forgive me of my sins. I pray in the name of my Savior, Jesus, Amen.