

LIFE Group Guide

Distress

Pastor Justin Searles

November 9, 2025

Genesis 32:1-8



THE ORCHARD

Read: Genesis 32:1-8

Outline:

“The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them.” Psalms 34:7

Jacob feels safe by God's camp (1-2)

Jacob initiates contact with Esau (3-4)

Jacob declares his sufficiency to Esau (5)

Jacob is distressed by Esau's reply (7)

Jacob's response to distress

- He separates his camp (7-8)
- He requests the Lord's protection (9-12)
- He stays near the Lord's camp (13)
- Jacob depends on his resources (14-15)
- Jacob manipulates the message (16-20)
- Jacob stays another night in the camp (21)
- Jacob sends his family from camp (22-23)
- Jacob struggles with the Lord (24)

The Lord's response to Jacob distress

- Interrupts his plan (24b)
- Disables his plan (25)
- Renames and blesses (26-28)

Discussion Questions

1. What encouraged, nourished, or challenged you from this sermon? The scripture passage?
2. What comfort does Jacob get from seeing the Lord's angels at the place where he camps? How does that point us to God's protection of us?
3. How do we see Jacob's faith and lack of faith when he prepares to meet Esau?
4. Why do you think Jacob and the Angel of the Lord wrestle? How does that relate to Jacob's life?
5. What does Jacob's wrestling with the Lord teach us about our faith and God's grace?