

**Lesson: Genesis 31-33**

Jacob was a flawed man, but although flawed, God chose him for greatness. Why?

In these chapters we see that Jacob had an abundance of blessings in his life. He was blessed from his grandfather Abraham and his father Isaac, and he had favor in God's eyes. After Jacob was blessed by Isaac and directed to leave his homeland to go in search of a wife, Jacob followed his father's instructions and went away. During his time away he became exceedingly prosperous with flocks of sheep and goats, camels and donkeys, servants, and a large family of his own. The Lord then spoke to Jacob and said to him, "return to the land of your father and grandfather and to your relatives there, and I will be with you" (Genesis 31:3). But Jacob had a big problem waiting for him back in his homeland. He had a brother named Esau who he had deceived, and whose birthright and blessing he had taken away. Jacob was terrified at the thought of Esau's anger because of the wrong he had done him. So, being afraid and distressed, Jacob prayed to God for help. Jacob said "O God of my grandfather Abraham, and God of my father, Isaac- O Lord, you told me, Return to your own land and to your relatives. And you promised me, I will treat you kindly. I am not worthy of all the unfailing love and faithfulness you have shown to me, your servant.

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When I left home and crossed the Jordan River, I owned nothing except a walking stick. Now my household fills two large camps! O Lord, please rescue me from the hand of my brother, Esau. I am afraid that he is coming to attack me, along with my wives and children. But you promised me, I will surely treat you kindly, and I will multiply your descendants until they become as numerous as the sands along the seashore- too many to count” (Genesis 32: 9-12). What Jacob did was humble himself before God and called on God's grace and mercy in prayer. Jacob knew the wrong he had done against his brother Esau, and he even knew his brother's anger was warranted. So, Jacob pleaded with God and leaned on God's promise.

Still being afraid, Jacob selected gifts from his possessions to present to his brother Esau, “Jacob thought, I will try to appease him by sending gifts ahead of me. When I see him in person, perhaps he will be friendly to me” (Genesis 32:20). Jacob sent his men ahead of him to deliver the gifts to Esau and told them to make sure to say it is from his servant Jacob. Jacob said to his men “be sure to say, look, your servant Jacob is right behind us” (Genesis 32:20). Jacob wanted to be referred to as a servant of Esau to demonstrate that he was humbly submitting to him and apologetic. When Jacob finally came face to face with his brother, Jacob bowed to the ground seven times before him, then Esau ran to meet him and embraced him, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him. And they both wept (Genesis 33: 3-4).

So, why was Jacob so blessed and favored? What did God see in this mild yet flawed man to bestow such blessings on his life? God had a very special and unique relationship with Jacob. Jacob is even said to have wrestled with God (Genesis 32:24-30). God has an insight and a divine understanding of who we each are. He knew us before we were born. He

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knows our inner most thoughts and ways and He connects with who we are from birth. He works with us through lessons in the ups and downs of life and brings out our best selves, one that is Christ like. As with Jacob, we are each very special to Him and He connects with us all in a unique way. With Jacob it was through an intense overnight struggle until the breaking of day, “a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break. When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob's hip and wrenched it out of its socket. Then the man said, Let me go, for the dawn is breaking! But Jacob said, I will not let you go unless you bless me. What is your name? The man asked. He replied, Jacob. Your name will no longer be Jacob, the man told him. From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won” (Genesis 32:24-28). Although this moment between God and Jacob is unparalleled, God does meet us all in our own unique way. He meets us where we are and draws us closer to Him within each moment of life, if we face toward Him.

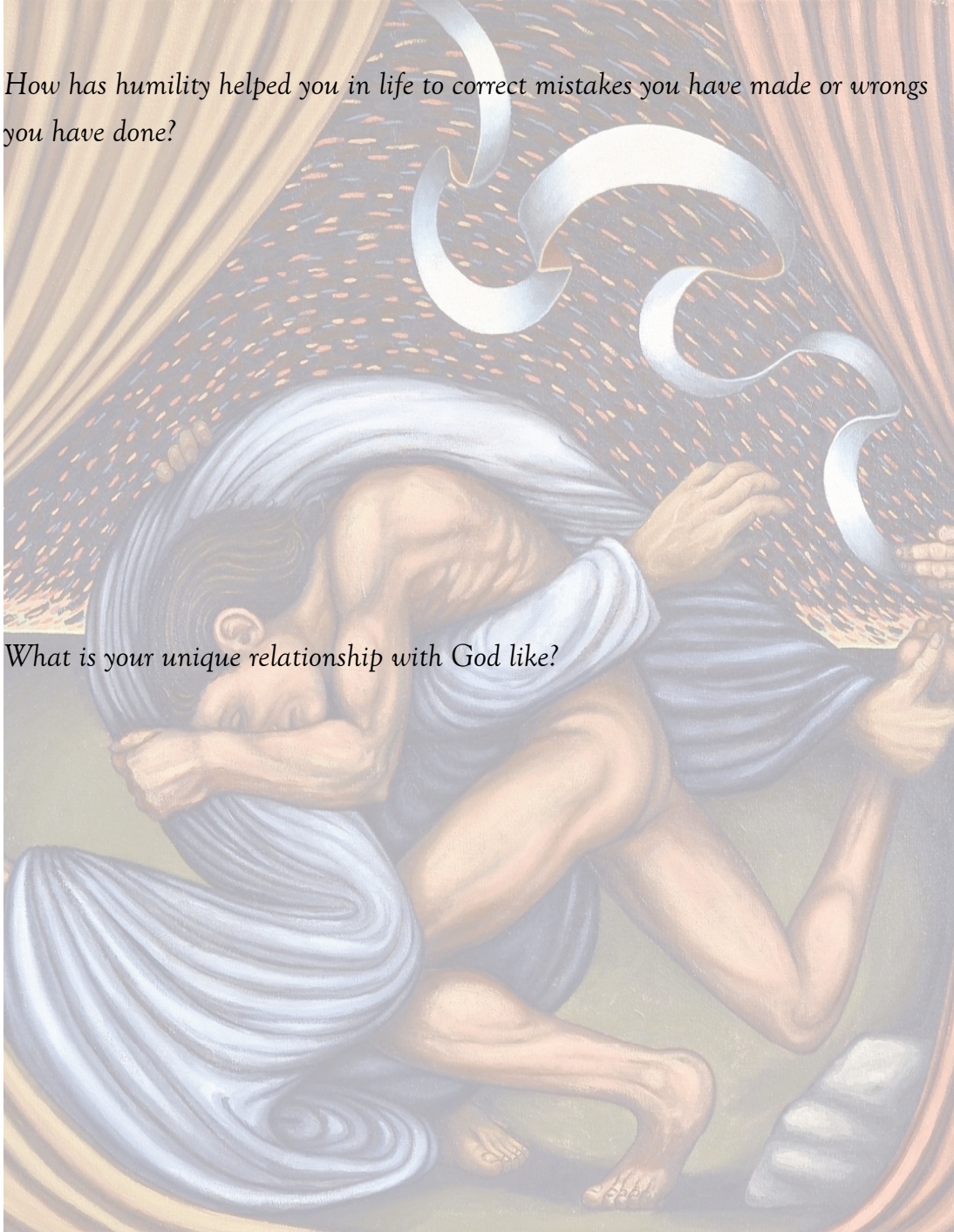
**Take away:** As children of God we are blessed/ It is good to be humble, to recognize when you're wrong, and to submit to mercy and grace/ God connects with each of us in a special and unique way, our special relationship with Him is unparalleled.

Devotional

Genesis 31-33

*How has humility helped you in life to correct mistakes you have made or wrongs you have done?*

*What is your unique relationship with God like?*



## Devotional

*Describe the prosperity in your life. How has God blessed you with abundance?*

*Pinpoint the moment you first connected with God. Describe:*