

July 19 / Sunday

Wrestling: Pinned

Read [Genesis 32:22-32](#)



20 / Mon – Wrestling with God | Read [Genesis 32:22-32](#)

Desperate times call for desperate measures. Jacob was in a tight spot. Facing a brother he had wronged and not knowing the outcome of their meeting after 21 years of estrangement, Jacob prepared the best he could. And he prayed, reminding God of His promise (v. 9-14). The wrestling match that followed shows you something about the way God uses adversity to encourage you to get serious with Him. Was God angry with Jacob's audacity? How do you know?

21 / Tue – Bold requests | Read [2 Chronicles 20:7](#) / [Genesis 18:1-5, 16-33](#) and [19:29](#)

Jacob was not the first to challenge God. Many years before, the Lord came down to visit Jacob's grandfather, Abraham. Because of their friendship, the Lord revealed the judgment hanging over the city where his nephew Lot lived. Abraham was bold and appealed for mercy, not asking once but six times, and each time God was willing to relent. In the end, Lot was spared. Do you consider yourself a friend of God? It can give you boldness to intercede for those who are in need of intervention.

22 / Wed – But... but... but... | Read [Exodus 3:1-14](#) and [4:1-18](#)

Do you argue with God's directions sometimes because you feel inadequate? If so, you are not alone. Moses had failed so miserably he *knew* he was incapable of doing what God asked him to do. Instead of striking Moses dead for resisting, God continued the dialogue until this reluctant leader understood that the success of this venture did not depend solely on him. How does this encourage you when the task ahead seems too daunting?

23 / Thu – Surrendering to God's will - example #1 | Read [Jonah 1:1-3, 13-17](#) and [3:1-4](#)

Jonah did not just resist, he ran in the opposite direction - literally. To be fair, Jonah wasn't being asked to preach repentance to his own people; he was sent to his hated enemies. Have you ever been asked by the Lord to do some difficult thing and you 'ran' the other way? Did God follow you and insist, giving you a second chance to do the right thing? If so, what was the result?

24 / Fri – Does God ever change His mind? | Read [Jonah 3:5-10](#) and [4:1-11](#)

While God's character and His ultimate plan to rescue humankind has never changed, prayer can change the manner in which this goal is worked out. See what the Ninevites did when they heard Jonah's message; then read God's response to their actions. What does this reveal about God's heart toward even your enemies? What was Jonah's reaction when God relented? What does this story teach you about the human heart of even a righteous person like this prophet?

25 / Sat – Surrendering to God's will - example #2 | Read [Matthew 26:36-46](#)

The stories from this week give insight into how important - and possible - it is to have honest conversations with God when you have strong feelings. It is not disrespectful to express your raw emotions as you struggle with God's will and wrestle with being obedient. Even Jesus, the perfect human being, was vulnerable with God the Father, asking three times if there was any other way. Yet each time, he *chose* to surrender. What helps you say *yes* when God asks you to do something you greatly dread?